WHEN LEAVING THE HOME VISIT

☐ Thank everyone for their time
☐ Have your car keys out and ready as you approach your vehicle
☐ Pay attention to your surroundings, including people and activity near the residence and your vehicle
☐ Observe the back seat before entering your vehicle
☐ Lock your doors
☐ If you are being followed, go to a police or fire station; do not go to your home or office
☐ Do not sit in the vehicle to check your phone or do paperwork
☐ Move to a safe area before making any calls

Adapted from materials from the following sources:


PRIOR TO THE HOME VISIT

- Assess the intake, research risk factors, and review case history
- Determine if coworker, supervisor, or law enforcement support is needed
- Coordinate with office staff so they know exactly where you are supposed to be and for how long
- Familiarize yourself with your destination, routing, and safe havens
- Study the neighborhood and home using online resources
- Check your vehicle and safety kit; ensure only what you need is in the passenger compartment
- Dress safely and appropriately—no ties, sandals, high heels, scarves, or excessive jewelry
- Take fully charged work cell phone with you, pre-programmed with emergency numbers

PARKING & APPROACHING THE HOME

- Park in the street; if you must park in the driveway, back in
- Park facing the direction you need to leave
- Canvas the neighborhood; look for potential trouble spots and safe havens
- Take only what you need into the home
- Keep vehicle doors locked
- Visually inspect the home and surrounding area
- Look and listen for signs of disturbances, hazardous chemicals, and/or animals
- Note any smells associated with substance abuse or other

Vehicle Readiness

Keep your vehicle in working order, with at least a 1/2 tank of gas, and maintain an emergency kit with the following items:

- Disposable blanket
- Flashlight/spare batteries
- Latex gloves
- Instant hand sanitizer
- Bottle of water
- Soap and wash cloth
- Extra sweatshirt
- Lice spray
- Extra pair of shoes in a sack (to tie off)

SAFETY IN THE HOME

- Stay close to an exit; know where all exits are
- Always know everyone who is in the residence
- Keep an open path between you and the exit
- Do not enter areas you cannot safely see into (crawl spaces, attics, outbuildings etc.); use a mirror to look around corners
- Maintain personal and professional boundaries
- Continually assess everyone’s emotional states, including your own
- Use nonthreatening body language
- Remain calm and polite
- Maintain respect; this is their home
- Be cautious and use common sense
- Be an attentive listener
- Thank them for their time

Tune into yourself. If you assess a situation as dangerous, leave immediately and go to a safe area before you call for emergency services and/or...