

# Safety Tips

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## Here are some helpful hints to assist you in staying safe in the field:

1. Clarify role and relationship(s) with clients; maintain ethical boundaries
2. Give clients source(s) for emergency and after-hours service(s) but do not include home phone numbers
3. Have clear agenda and time frame – discuss with client before meeting
4. Let others know your itinerary
5. Obtain clarity about who lives in the home, and their relationship with each other
6. Dual relationships in small communities can be difficult to avoid
7. Assess environmental safety (e.g., neighborhood, remoteness, loose animals)
8. Dress appropriately for (or appropriate to) the family, the activity and the setting
9. Leave purse and confidential case file materials in trunk of car
10. Observe potential dangers within the home (e.g., firearms, drug paraphernalia)
11. Locate exits from the home and position yourself accordingly
12. Be aware of potential health hazards (blood borne pathogens)
13. Identify back-up for client(s) when away from the agency
14. Use supervisory assistance to assess potential safety risks, preventive measures, or need for termination