



## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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### State of Delaware Personal Safety Recommendations for Home Visitors

It is recommended that all home visitors should first and foremost be aware of their settings. They should be aware of those around them in the homes where they are conducting their home visit as well as the neighborhood.

#### Safety Tips

##### Before Your Visit:

- Organize yourself before leaving your office
- Always wear your badge with your photo. It is best not to have your ID on a lanyard around your neck
- Make sure your supervisor has the make, model and tag number of your vehicle
- Look up the location of the home. If the location is in a high crime area, suggest to the family that you prefer a daytime visit
- Be aware of the nearest police station and fire station. If possible, stop off at the police station, introduce yourself, and let them know the location of your visit.
- Make sure someone at work is aware of your destination and approximate time of arrival back to the office
- Notify the family that you are en route to their location for the home visit
- Check the parking area when you arrive for any suspicious behavior
- If suspicious vehicles or persons are in the vicinity, obtain a plate number or take a picture of the plate on the car with your phone
- Do not park next to a van or a truck
- Park in a well-lit area
- Do not accept unsolicited offers of assistance
- Do not unlock your car for a stranger or allow a stranger into your car
- If someone approaches your vehicle, stay in the locked car. Honk your horn or call 911 for assistance
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Have all your materials ready for the visit in your hand before you open the door
- Dress appropriately. Do not wear flashy clothes, purses or jewelry to a visit
- If you have your purse with you, lock it in the trunk before you leave the office
- Carry as little as possible with you into the home visit. Just have your driver's license in your pocket and do not take your purse into the home. If you have cash, keep it a minimal amount.
- Carry a noise making device with you attached to your car keys
- Listen to your intuition. If something does not feel right, leave at once and call your supervisor



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### During The Visit:

- Have your car keys in your hand to and from your car
- Visually check around the home when you enter
- Take note of all the exits in the home
- Take note of the family's emotional state
- If any dogs are in the home at the time of the visit, ask the family to please put the dog in another room
- Keep the visit in the living room and away from the kitchen
- Ask that the TV be turned off so that you can better concentrate on the family's needs
- Begin the visit being respectful and courteous to the family
- Respect their personal space
- Sit so that you have a clear path to the door
- Keep your bag near the door with your phone in your pocket
- If you are feeling uncomfortable for any reason, leave the visit and call your supervisor

### After the Visit:

- If you are feeling uncomfortable walking to your car, ask the family to watch from the door as you walk to your vehicle
- Have your keys in your hand as you are walking
- Look around you as you walk, taking note of your surrounding

Organizations should review these recommendations at least every 6 months.

Sussex County Home Visiting Programs

	less 28 weeks gest.	1st Preg.	Sub. Abuse	Low Inc.	Zip Codes	child I/ 90 days	child I/ 36 months	at risk
Parents As Teachers-Polytech							★	★
Parents As Teachers-DOE								★
Nurse Family Partnership	★	★		★				
HFA-Children and Families First					★	★		
HFA-Public Health					★	★		
HFA-Kent/Sussex Counseling			★		★	★		
Early Head Start				★			★	

At Risk, must be at least one of the following:

- Teen Parent
- Child w/disability or chronic health condition
- Parent w/disability or chronic health condition
- Parent w/mental illness
- Low educational attainment
- low income
- Recent immigrant or refugee family
- Substance abuse
- Homeless or unstable housing
- Very low birth weight
- Domestic Violence
- Child Abuse or neglect