



44 Sherman Street Springfield, MA 01109

Phone: (413) 739-5626 Fax: (413) 304-4685

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of the family program to formulate a policy around worker safety within clients' homes. I have been interning within the family program since early September and throughout this time I have received clients that I would work with one-on-one like any other family support worker. I discovered that a majority of the parent education meetings with parents are done at the clients' place of residence and the worker has limited communication with supervisors or co-workers while these meetings are being held. I find this concerning.

Unfortunately, when entering a client's home you never know what you are walking into, especially the first time. There are precautions you can take to remain safe such as always being closest to the door or always having 911 on speed dial, however; you never know what to expect. I strongly believe that a policy about traveling with another person has to be put into place.

Putting this policy into action will not only enhance worker safety out in the field, it will also be a great way to eliminate any possibility of false allegations against workers. As a worker you could have followed protocol perfectly and document the visit, but the client can make any allegation and it is your word versus the client's word. Even if you are proven innocent you will unfortunately have that allegation attached to your name forever.

I urge you to look at the safety procedure already in place, policy D1 from 1997, and consider any appropriate changes.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hull