
REDUCING THE RISK OF HARM: A WORKBOOK ACTIVITY

1. Have any employees in your practicum agency been threatened or harmed by clients or consumers? If yes, describe the circumstances that gave rise to the incident.

No one has been harmed or threatened in the school social work program at HCDE.

2. What precautions, if any, might have prevented the above incidents or reduced their seriousness?

Prior planning and research about client situation.

3. What agency policies and procedures are in place to ensure personal safety and reduce risk to agency employees and clients?

Zero Tolerance Policy protects students and employees but there is no policy specific to school social workers.

4. What training is provided in your agency to help workers prevent and deal with threatening or violent clients or situations?

At this time there is no training. We are going to suggest an in-service training for school social workers.

5. Do agency workers carry defensive devices such as mace or pepper spray? What are the pros and cons of doing so?

No. It is not allowed by school district.

6. What kinds of high-risk clients or situations are you likely to encounter in your practicum? How will you prepare yourself to deal with them?

Students with severe behavioral problems and home visits where domestic violence is prevalent. Take an officer or co-worker with you and understand the situation before the visit.

-
7. Given the area served by your agency, what specific locations or neighborhoods are known to be especially dangerous?

The Green Gables apartments and several rural areas known
for manufacturing drugs.

8. What services does your agency provide to workers who are threatened, injured, or traumatized by threats or violence (e.g., counseling, critical incident stress debriefing, or support groups)?

Field instructor could not find any information on this service

She phoned the director , who is looking into the policy.

9. Does your agency have an incident reporting system for documenting threats and violence toward workers?

Yes. A paper report of the incident is filed with the
Director of Student Services, Mrs. Randolph.

10. Does your agency have a formal, written agreement with the police detailing when they are to be called for assistance?

No. It is left at the discretion of the principals to determine
if the situation warrents a phone call to police.

11. Are there any clients or situations that frighten you? If so, how can you deal with your fears?

Home visits can be intimidating because you are going into
unknown territory. If unfamiliar with client/area, it is best to
schedule a first meeting on neutral ground such as the school.

12. If your practicum is in a hospital or health care setting, what precautions are you to take in order to protect yourself and your vulnerable clients from infectious diseases or biohazards?

N/A -I am in a school setting.
