

Field Safety



Safety information specific to the placement agency is provided during their orientation. For additional information, students are requested to adhere to the following suggested safety tips. It is hoped that this will help keep you from becoming a victim of crime.

Vehicles



- In making visits outside the agency or going to the agency plan the safest route;
- Familiarize yourself with the neighborhood by noticing the people and activities on the route you take. Clearly identify opened shops, street lighting, and access to public telephones. If possible take an agency car phone.
- Check under the vehicle and the back seat of your vehicle before entering. Ensure that the interior car light is functioning and that doors are always locked while in and out of your vehicle.
- Females keep bags and purse in a safe unrevealing area within your vehicle. Place in concealed area before leaving the agency (i.e. glove compartment, trunk, or hide under the seat).
- Make sure your car is in good working condition and has plenty of gas. However, if you have car trouble raise your hood and return to your car and lock the doors. If you are offered assistance from a stranger have them call the police.
- Always try to park in a well-lighted or populated area.
- If at any time you feel you are being followed, turn on your emergency lights, blow your horn and drive to the police station, the nearest gas station, firm or department store and call the police. If you have a car phone, call the police for immediate directions.

Walking



- Make plans to use the safest route to your destination. If walking on sidewalks, use the part farthest from alleys, shrubs, and doorways.
- If possible, walk with a companion. Don't be afraid to call police for courtesy escort if the situation is dangerous.
- Try to wear clothing that will allow you comfort and freedom to move freely. Avoid wearing high heel shoes. If you must carry a purse hold it close to your body or under your coat. Males carry wallets inside your coat or in your front trouser pocket.
- Don't wear expensive jewelry or carry large sums of money.
- Carry car keys in your hand with them between your fingers when traveling to you car. This will make you appear more secure and expectant.
- Use good body language that communicates you are a calm, confident person (i.e. stand tall with head erect, and walk like you have a mission).
- Always be aware of your surroundings.

In Elevators



- Familiarize yourself with emergency buttons and stand at front of elevator near the side panels.
- Get off the elevator if there is someone suspicious on.
- If you are attacked on the elevator hit as many buttons as possible starting with the alarm button.

Approached or At-Risk



- Never resist if a person is armed and after your valuables "give it to them."
- Contact police immediately following an attack. Give as much detailed information as possible about your attacker.

- Seek support from others to help you cope with being a victim. Being a victim can be traumatic.
- To help protect yourself be aware of your personal "space". How people react (passively or assertively when space is invaded) is one way in which rapist test their potential victims.
- Avoid talking to strangers. Answer firmly and simply if you feel you must respond to a stranger's question.
- If approached by a stranger keep moving towards your destination while avoiding being maneuvered into alleyways, doorways and/or cars. Do not engage in dialogue.

Reporting



- Your supervisor should immediately receive all threats of violence or threats against persons or property. This information will be important should the actual offense occur. Keeping an accurate record will assist your supervisor and police in the event they follow through with threats.
- Likewise, any physical injury or threat of physical injury to self or others should also be reported to your supervisor and if necessary to police.