

Community Living Brant
Assessing Violence in the Community - Pre-visit Community Assessment Tool

Sample questions to ask during the phone interview regarding the supported individual and/or family member(s) of the supported individual

1. Is there a history of violent or aggressive behaviour by the supported individual or person's in their dwelling?
2. Do you know of any triggers for the violent /aggressive behaviour, such as when limits are set, or during specific activities?
3. Is the violent/aggressive behaviour directed toward a particular person or generalized, toward no one in particular?
4. If directed at a particular person, what is the likelihood that this person will be in the home during a worker's home visit?
5. Do you know of any restraining orders against anyone in the household? If yes, against whom (e.g., client, family member, or friend)?
6. Have threats recently been made against the supported individual? If so, who has made these threats?
7. Are there pets or animals in the home?

TRAVEL ROUTE

- Identify the safest route to reach the supported individual's premises
- Check with the local police department to determine the crime rate for the geographic location. If the crime rate is considered high, look at alternate plans or options to visit with the person. If no other options available may have to have two workers travel to provide care.
- Is the supported individual aware of the approximate time of arrival?

UPON ARRIVAL

- Has the closest and safest parking spot been located? (make sure the vehicle windows are closed and doors are locked)
- Do street lamps provide enough light for walking from the parked car to the entrance, and is there a light in the entrance to the building? (park under a streetlight if arriving in the late afternoon or at night, avoid night visits if possible).

BEFORE ENTERING THE HOME

- Are there any physical hazards (barriers, broken steps, free roaming dogs, weapons) and, if so, is there a plan for controlling these hazards during the visit?
- If there is a possibility of encountering hazards during your visit, have you arranged for a pre-visit and post-visit call to the office, supervisor or co-worker?
- Request that the entry area light be on, if there is one, use a flashlight if needed.
- Will other people be in the residence during the visit? If so, do you know how many, what their relationship is to the supported individuals, whether there any potential for violence, and who will open the door?

AT THE HOME

- Do you know where the nearest telephone is?
- Are there emergency phones in the building, housing or parking complex? (Have a cell phone with you , pre-program emergency contact numbers)
- Have you determined the safest route for returning to your vehicle? (be observant, look and listen, do not sling your purse or bag over your shoulder or around your neck).
- Carry your keys in your hand
- Walk around vehicle, and check back seat before unlocking car
- Lock doors, keep windows up until underway