



Acknowledgement of Risk in the Field Placement

This document is designed to inform you of the potential risks associated with a field placement. It is the Division of Social Work's belief that you have a right to be informed of risks associated with this aspect of your educational and professional preparation, and that with proper knowledge and preparation; risks can be minimized.

Liability Insurance: Professional liability coverage is required for practicum. You must secure liability insurance in order to begin practicum. In order to secure liability insurance you must join NASW at the student rate. You can join NASW online at: www.socialworkers.org
Once you join NASW as a student member you then must apply for liability. You can download an application at www.NASWInsuranceTrust.org
You will need to fill out the red student application. You need to sign up for at least 1,0000.00 coverage. When it asks you for your title please put student.

Automobile Liability Insurance: Most practicum agencies will not allow students to transport clients. However, you may be asked to use your vehicle for making home visits or attending community meetings. It is recommended that you check with your insurance company for a clear understanding of your coverage. Ask specifically what coverage you have if something happens while transporting a client. If clients are to be transported, an agency vehicle should be used, if available.

TB Skin Test (PPD-S): The prevalence of TB in society has increased in recent years. If you anticipate a practicum setting that serves populations at risk for TB, it is recommended that you take this test prior to entering field. Some practicum sites require this test. You can be tested at the Student Health Center. The PPD test is free of charge as long as you are taking more than 4 credit hours and have paid the student health fees. Please contact the Student Health Center 229-333-5886 for further questions.

Hepatitis B Vaccine: Working with high-risk clients means there is a chance of being exposed to blood-borne pathogens, it is recommended that you get this vaccination. This involves a series of three injections over a six month period of time. The second injection is given one month following the first, with the third coming five months later. The Hepatitis B Vaccine can be administered at the Student Health Center for 30.00 per injection. This 30.00 will need to be paid at the Bursary and you will need to bring your receipt to the Student Health Center. Please contact the Student Health Center for further questions 229-333-5886.

Client Office Visits: You may have a client in your office that becomes agitated or hostile. It is important that you discuss such matters with your field instructor early in your practicum to be informed of agency policy and recommended course of action should this occur.

Institutional Settings: Mental health and correctional institution settings serve a client population whose behavior may be unpredictable. It is important that you learn strategies for handling clients whose behavior becomes threatening. Whenever you feel uncomfortable with a client, inform your field instructor. It is acceptable to have your field instructor or another staff person accompany you when visiting such clients.

Home Visits: It is not uncommon for social workers in a variety of settings to conduct home visits. Such visits expose you to risks. It is important that all home visits be made with the full knowledge of your field instructor including time of departure, time of return, as well as other activities while on the trip. Do not conduct a home visit when you feel uncomfortable or threatened in the situation. Return to the agency and report your experiences to your field instructor. Beware of dogs or other household pets that might be a threat. Do not make a visit when the presence of alcohol is detected. It may be appropriate for you to make visits accompanied by your field instructor. Do not take risks. Know who to call or what steps to take if you should experience a vehicle breakdown.

After Hours Meetings: Some practicum settings have activities that occur after normal operating hours. Be aware of the location or neighborhood where such activities take place, note street lighting, open spaces, shrubs and other growth that might impair vision. It is suggested that you always be accompanied by your field instructor or someone else when going to your car after dark. Don't take risks.

I have read the above and understand that a field placement may present some risks. I also understand that prudent choices and exercising caution can minimize these risks. I further recognize that it is my responsibility to become informed of agency policy and practices regarding the above situations, and notify my field instructor or field faculty member if any concerns arise.

Student Signature

Date

(Form adapted from Florida State University School of Social Work Fall 2007)