

# Home Visitor Safety



Training Companion to Home  
Visitation Safety Guidelines

Methamphetamine  
& Substance Abuse



# Presenter

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# Important Note

When utilizing the guidelines provided in this training and the entire Safety Manual, it is important to remember the context in which they will be used. Safety considerations may vary from location to location as well as from situation to situation. For example, safety issues in rural areas may differ somewhat from safety issues in urban areas. Because each community is unique, the safety issues encountered in that community may also be unique. With regard to safety issues, there are other factors, in addition to context, that may need to be considered. Those factors include agency policies and procedures as well as current state laws.

Safety guidelines often need to be adapted and/or expanded to address the specific concerns of each location or situation. Supervisory sessions provide an appropriate venue for discussion of specific safety concerns and fine-tuning of safety procedures. The supervisor should be available and immediately informed if the home visitor fears for his/her safety. The safety of the home visitor is of utmost importance. The focus of this manual and training is to provide general guidelines to enhance understanding and awareness of safety issues for home visitors.



# Training Objectives

Participants will identify and understand:

- Red flags for possible methamphetamine and substance abuse.
- Steps to maintain safety in situations where there is suspicion of methamphetamine and substance abuse use.



# Drug Paraphernalia 1

## ■ Some examples of drug paraphernalia:

- Mirrors with razor blades, straws, etc.
- Pipes, water pipes and any object resembling a pipe
- Hypodermic needles, syringes, glass vials, etc.
- Burnt spoons, rolling papers, roach clips, hemp rope, etc.
- Excessive amount of empty alcohol bottles

## ■ Red flags related to methamphetamine:

- Strong odor resembling urine or unusual chemicals such as ether, ammonia or acetone.
- Little or no traffic around home during day, but significant activity during very late hours.
- Extra efforts to cover windows or to reinforce doors.
- Trash not put out for collection.
- Large amount of items, i.e. cooking dishes, coffee filters, bottles, that do not appear for regular household use.
- Presence of unusual quantities of chemicals.
- Vehicles loaded with laboratory materials or chemicals.



# Drug Paraphernalia 2

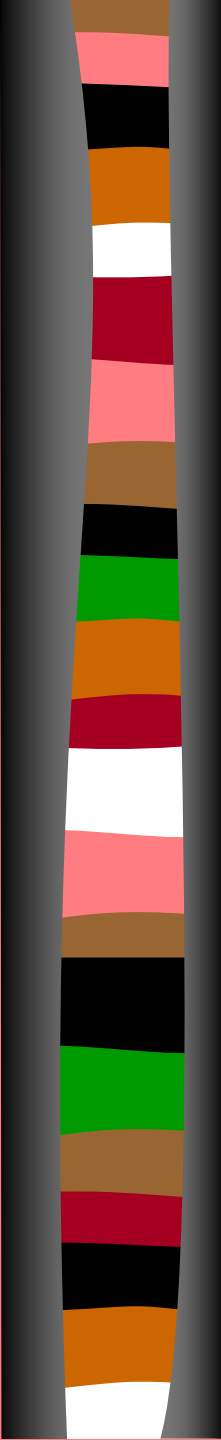
- There may be some cultural considerations with certain drug paraphernalia. Discuss with supervisor prior to addressing the family.
- If imminent danger, leave the home and follow General Safety Guidelines.
- If no imminent danger:
  - Discuss dangers of exposing child(ren) to drug paraphernalia and activities in home.
  - Discuss effect of drug use on parenting.
  - Encourage parents to seek assistance for substance abuse issues.
  - Provide resources and referral information.



# Methamphetamine

**Do not enter home with evidence of meth lab materials or chemicals on property.**

- If you enter and see evidence of a meth lab:
  - Discreetly but immediately leave
  - Drive to a safe location; contact local law enforcement
- If you are exposed:
  - Cover your car seats and floorboards with plastic covering. Clean hands with disinfectant wipes before touching the steering wheel.
  - Go to safe location to change clothes. Place dirty clothes in a plastic trash bag. Clean all exposed skin surfaces with soap & water.
  - Wash any items carried into the home with soap/water.
  - Don't touch any surface until skin and items are clean.



# Under Influence of Drugs/Alcohol or Chronic Use

Red flags (*note: some may be signs of other issues*):

- Lack of motor coordination and/or slowed reflexes
- Slurred speech, disorientation, confused behavior
- Risky behavior
- Dilated or constricted pupils
- High/low heart rate, blood pressure
- Clammy skin
- Drowsiness, hyperactivity or euphoria
- Increased or decreased appetite
- Drugs, alcohol or paraphernalia
- Loss of consciousness
- Paranoia/suspicion and/or altered perceptions
- Easily angered or enraged (irritability)
- Needle marks
- Glassy or discoloration of the eyes
- Rapid or decreased eye movement
- Substance odor on clothing, breath
- Insensitivity to pain
- Rapid weight loss
- Decaying of teeth

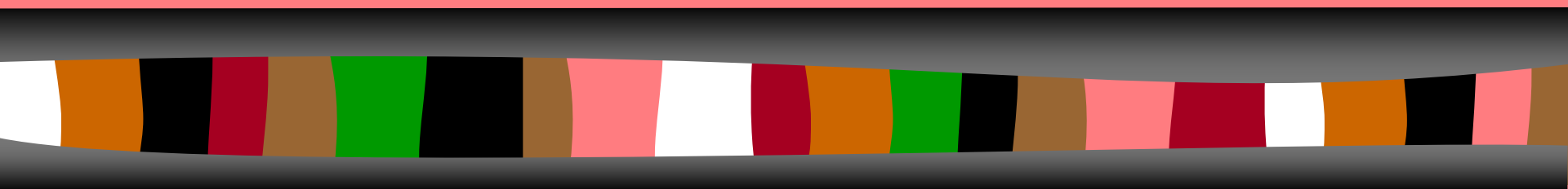




# Under Influence of Drugs/Alcohol or Chronic Use

- If imminent danger, leave the home and follow General Safety Guidelines.
  
- If child(ren) present in the home:
  - Call local DHS Child Welfare or 1-800-522-3511.
  - If caregiver is unconscious, call 911, stay until emergency help arrives.
  - At a later time, contact the family to follow up and link them appropriate resources.

# **Contributors to the Power Point Training Section**



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