

# Home Visitor Safety



Training Companion to Home  
Visitation Safety Guidelines  
Gang Involvement  
and Firearms



# 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 gang activity and/or involvement.
- Steps to maintain safety in situations where there is suspicion of gang involvement and/or firearms in the home.



# Threats of Harm, Violence Related to Gang Involvement – **RED FLAGS (Slide 1)**

- Consistently wears one color, especially same color shoes, shirt, shoelaces, handkerchiefs, etc; Refusal to wear another specific color.
- Gang writing present in the home or on property.
- Use gang related hand gestures or signs.



# Threats of Harm, Violence Related to Gang Involvement – **RED FLAGS (Slide 2)**

- Uses slang language related to gangs
- Involvement in criminal activity i.e. vandalism, assaults, drugs, etc.
- Has gang related tattoos.

*Take any threat of harm or violence seriously.*



# Threats of Harm, Violence Related to Gang Involvement (Slide 1)

- If imminent danger, leave and follow General Safety Guidelines.
- If evidence of gang involvement, discuss what you have observed with the family at a safe time – not when gang members are present.
- Talk to parent(s) regarding dangers of gang involvement and gang members in the home.
- Encourage parent to consider assistance to deal with gang membership and use community resources for support.



# Threats of Harm, Violence Related to Gang Involvement (Slide 2)

- Remind of dangers they expose their children to.
- Assure them you will continue to work with them, if safe. Request only family members be present at the time of the home visits.
- Work with family to find non-gang related support systems.





# Firearms (Slide 1)

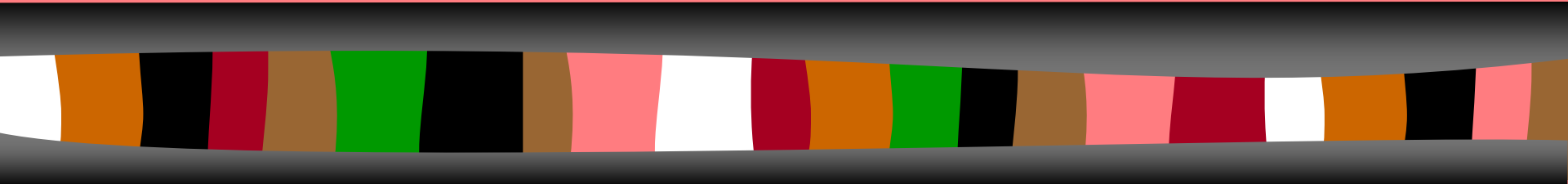
- If you see firearms, assume there could be danger to you or others in the home.
  - If you know there are guns in the home but are not in view, ask where the guns are kept.
  - If there is an escalating situation where firearms could be used, leave and follow General Safety Guidelines.



# Firearms (Slide 2)

- If no danger, but firearms and ammunition are unlocked in the home:
  - Talk to parents about safe storage.
  - Encourage parents to educate children about gun safety on a regular basis.

# Contributors to the Power Point Training Section



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