



Best Practices for Home Visits*

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

- Purpose of Home Visits
- Importance of Officer Safety
- Best Practices & Tips
 - Before Visit
 - During Visit
 - After Visit

Before Your Home Visit:

- Know your client. Review client record, including prior incidents, sentencing reports, previous contacts with law enforcement, outstanding warrants, protective orders, etc.
- Know where you are going. Who lives at the residence? Are they justice involved? Is the place an apartment or house? Are there animals, security gates, long driveways, etc.
- Know which local law enforcement agency has jurisdiction of your location.
- Wear all your department issued gear – bulletproof vest, radio, pepper spray, handcuffs (key), duty weapon, etc.
- Visualize different scenarios and techniques in your head to reduce your reaction time and potentially save your life.
- Assess if a security or safety issue warrants partnering with another DPO. Discuss safety concerns with your supervisor

A significant role of being a supervision DPO is conducting home visits. The home visits assist with maintaining client compliance and protecting the public. These visits present opportunities for DPOs to incorporate family support in the client's case plan to reduce recidivism. Despite the virtuous intent of home visits, they may present safety concerns for DPOs. There are best practices that prioritize DPOs' wellbeing and safety as the most important parts of home visits.

During Your Home Visit:

- Drive past the residence and park in a location to avoid driving by the property when leaving.
- Use the radio to inform the sheriff's dispatch of your location and purpose.
- Be vigilant when approaching the property, consider your placement at the residence door and any surrounding windows.
- Stand in different areas of the same space. The cover officer should have a clear view of their partner, the client, and any doorways leading into the room.
- Always assume there can be someone else in the residence or arriving at the property.
- A field visit is not the place to debate back and forth with a client. Those conversations can be held during a scheduled office visit in a controlled environment.
- Remember the exit strategy if the visit could lead to an unsafe situation. Know how to communicate with your partner without making it obvious to the client. There is no shame in backing out, regrouping, and returning more prepared.

Probation 123, Compliance Check

Probation 123, 10-8 Contact/Without Contact

After Your Home Visit:

- Be sure to inform the sheriff's dispatch when the visit is complete.
- After the visit, be sure to document the details in the case management system.

The Chief is Calling!



Note: These are simply best practices & tips and do not supersede Department policies.

*Lexipol