

Acknowledgment of Risk in the Field Practicum

This document is to inform you of some of the potential risks associated with your field practicum. Your safety in field is critically important to the College. With knowledge and preparation, specific risks can be minimized, enabling you to have a positive and productive field experience.

1. **Personal Safety.** You may encounter risks to your personal safety during the field practicum. These risks may be physical and/or emotional and may arise when dealing with angry clients, making home visits, being exposed to clients who have infectious illnesses, and in other field-related situations. Personal safety training is provided by the field coordinator in field seminar or orientation prior to the start of placement. Students are expected to discuss personal safety guidelines with their field instructors very early in the placement so that they can be informed of any related agency training, policies, or procedures. Students are encouraged to discuss any concerns about physical or emotional safety with their field instructors. If the concerns are unresolved, students are to discuss their safety concerns with their field liaison and/or field coordinator.
2. **Practicing within your competence.** An important aspect of ethical, professional practice is knowing the limits of your knowledge and skills and not engaging in practice activities that are beyond your level of competence. Whenever you have a question or concern about how to handle a specific case and whether or not a specific intervention is appropriate, consult with your field instructor before engaging in the intervention.
3. **Liability Insurance.** Students are required to carry and pay for the professional liability insurance that is managed by the UT Office of Risk Management. This insurance covers liability of students for their actions while they are engaged in a University of Tennessee directed educational activity related to their professional field. This charge will be billed to students by the bursar's office prior to the start of field and will be paid by the student with tuition and fees. The policy term is annual, from June 1 to May 31 of each year that the student is in field.
4. **Use of Personal Vehicle.** If you will be using your personal vehicle to transport clients, it is essential 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. Check with your field instructor to find out if the agency provides coverage for you if you use your vehicle to transport clients. Some agencies classify students as "volunteers" and this allows them to provide some coverage through policies for volunteers. Whenever possible, use an agency vehicle to transport clients.
5. **Immunization and Health Screening.** If you are placed in a setting in which there is the chance of being exposed to blood borne pathogens, it is recommended that you get the Hepatitis B immunization. This involves a series of three injections over six months. You can obtain this series at the student health clinic on the Knoxville campus or at your local health department. You may also be required or encouraged to complete specific immunization protocols and/or health screening by your field agency. It is important to discuss with your field instructor any specific immunization or health screening requirements related to field before starting placement.

I have read the above and understand that participation in field inevitably involves some risks. I also understand that using good judgment, exercising appropriate caution, and maintaining open communication with my field instructor can help to minimize these risks. I further affirm that it is my responsibility to become informed of the specific risks that are inherent in my field setting and to become informed of field agency policies and procedures regarding these risks.

Student Signature

Date