

WORKING IN THE COMMUNITY

PREVENTION STRATEGIES TO PROTECT CSEA MEMBERS FROM VIOLENCE WHILE WORKING IN THE COMMUNITY

Risk of Violence

Social workers are vulnerable as they walk into an unprotected and unpredictable environment and every time they enter a client's community and home. The spectrum of violence ranges from verbal abuse, to stalking or threats of assault, to homicide.

NYS DOL Definition of Violence

Workplace violence is any physical assault or act of aggressive behavior occurring where a public employee performs any work-related duty in the course of his or her employment, including, but not limited to:

- An attempt or threat, whether verbal or physical, to inflict physical injury upon an employee;
- Any intentional display of force which would give an employee reason to fear or expect bodily harm;
- Intentional and wrongful physical contact with a person without his or her consent that entails some injury; or
- Stalking an employee with the interest in causing fear of physical harm to the physical safety and health of such employee when such stalking has arisen through and in the course of employment.

Rights and Responsibilities

- All CSEA members have the right to a safe workplace. Public Employers in NYS are required to evaluate the risks for workplace violence and implement measures to protect workers. All employees must be trained and have the right to report workplace violence concerns to the employer.
- Members are responsible to follow workplace safety protocols.



TIPS & HELPFUL ADVICE

- Be sure of the location and have accurate directions to the house or apartment.
- Always let your employer know your location and when to expect you to report back.
- Park the vehicle in a well-lit area, away from large trees or shrubs where a person could hide.
- Before getting out of the car, check the surrounding location and activity.
- If you feel uneasy, do not get out of the car. Stay in your car and contact your manager.
- Keep an open pathway for exiting.
- Trust your judgment.
- If you cannot gain control of the situation, shorten the visit and remove yourself from the situation. If you feel threatened, leave immediately.
- If you need help, use your cell phone to call your employer or 911, depending on the severity of the situation.

For more information and resources visit:

www.cseany.org/safety



Subscribe to our newsletter:



Knowledge is power—but collective action saves lives.

At CSEA, transforming knowledge into action is central to our mission of protecting workers. When hazards and close calls are documented and reported, they can be addressed before they cause harm. That's how we prevent injuries and illnesses—by making sure problems don't get ignored. Your voice and vigilance are essential. Now more than ever, we need your help to ensure every workplace is safe, healthy, and accountable.

THE LIFE YOU SAVE COULD BE YOUR OWN!