

# **FACULTY OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS**

## **Dalhousie University**

### **Guidelines for Personal Safety in Fieldwork Placements**

The Faculty of Health Professions places a high value on the personal safety of students in the Faculty. All safety issues warrant attention and action. The following guidelines are designed to provide guidance to students, faculty and field sites regarding student safety issues. For the purposes of these policies, being "at risk" refers to risk related to personal safety and is not applicable to students who are "at risk" of failing their fieldwork experience because of a lack of knowledge, attitudes and/or skills.

The following guidelines apply on the University campus and in all fieldwork related activities including travelling safely to and from sites. Faculty, agency fieldwork instructors/clinical educators and students are all expected to share responsibility for assuring safe teaching/learning environments.

Each School/College is responsible for:

1. having procedures for educating students to manage "at risk" situations. These procedures will emphasize the safety knowledge of students to be acquired in the academic setting prior to embarking on field experiences. These procedures will try to ensure that the students are fully informed of any reasonable risk situations prior to the placement. In addition, each fieldwork site will agree to be responsible for orienting students to site-specific risks and safety procedures which will be part of the students' initial orientation.
2. having procedures to deal with risk situations if they occur. Possible outcomes could include either the student remaining at the present placement or the student moving to an alternate fieldwork site. In cases where students may need to change placements, reasonable and timely effort will be made to arrange an alternate fieldwork placement for the student. Every effort will be made to enable the student to complete the necessary fieldwork in a timely fashion.

If an "at risk" situation has occurred, the School/College will follow up with the agency after the immediate matter has been resolved to assist with remedial measures for future planning.

March 20, 1996

Approved by Faculty Council, April, 1996