

# Supporting Safe Practices In Your Advocacy

Simple, Logical and Manageable Solutions

# Speakers: In Order of Appearance

- Diane Smith Howard, Managing Attorney, NDRN
- Sarah Forte, Senior Investigator / Paralegal Southern Center for Human Rights Capital Litigation Unit
- Daniel Stewart, Legal Director/Deputy Director, Minnesota *Disability* Law Center

# Supporting safe practices in your advocacy

Sarah Forte, Senior Investigator

Southern Center for Human Rights



NLADA

National Alliance of Sentencing  
Advocates & Mitigation Specialists

# BEFORE YOU GO

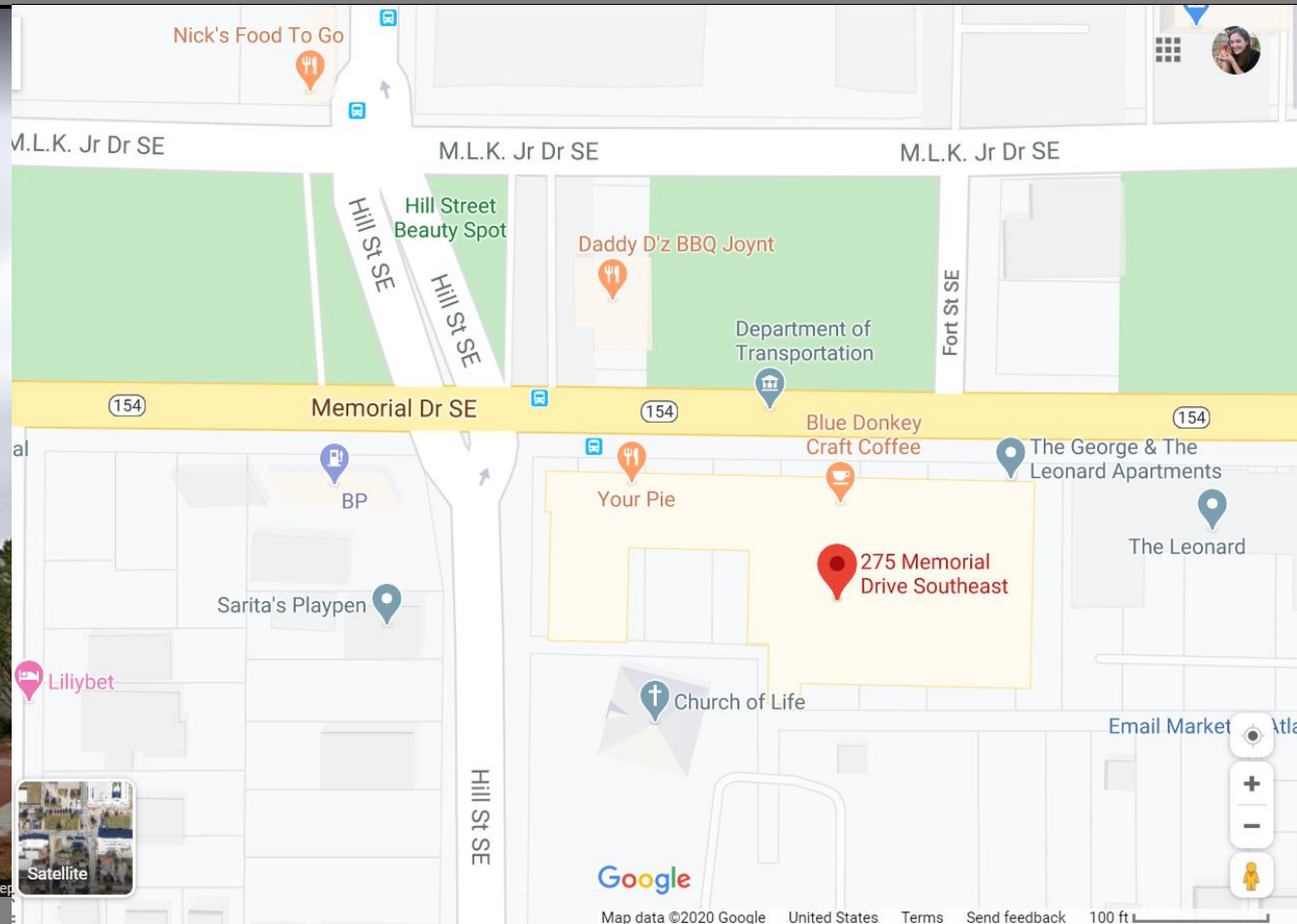
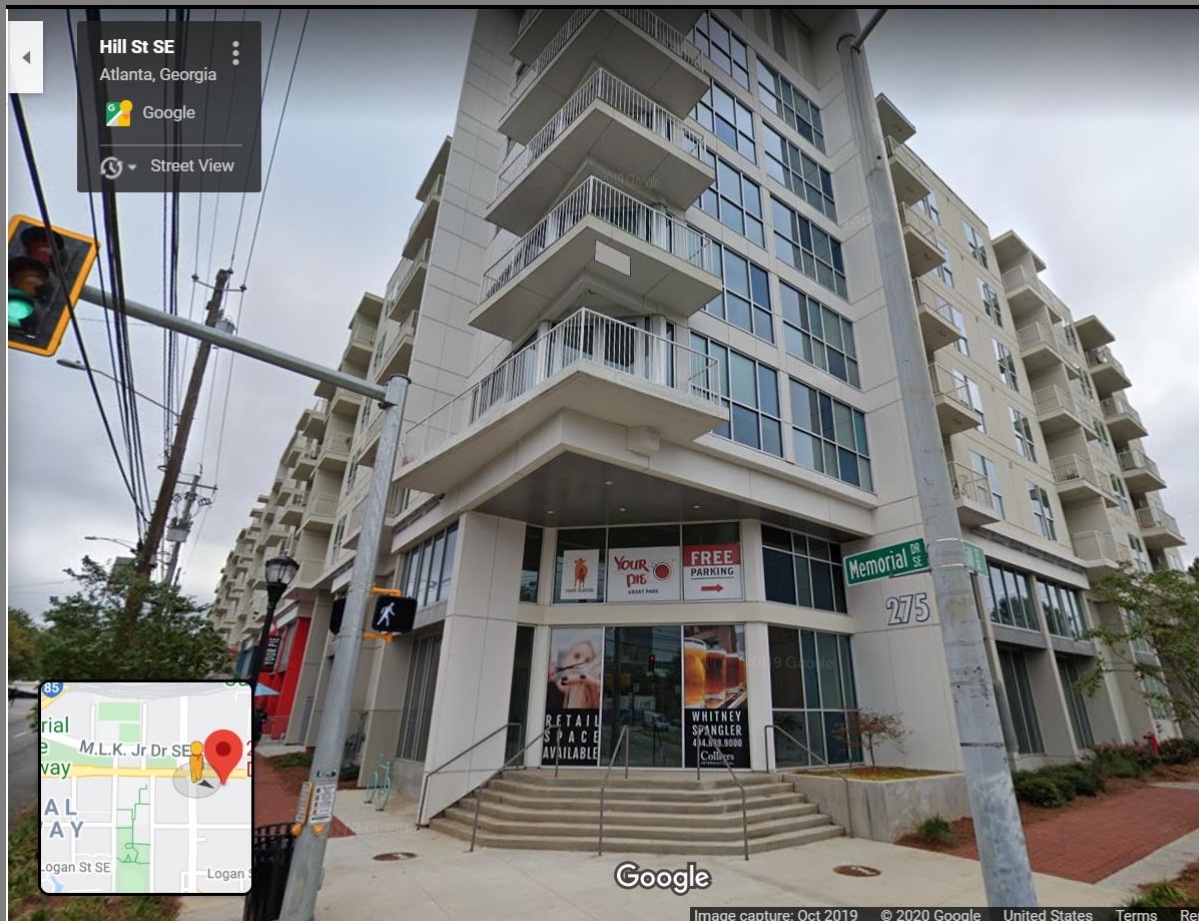
Investigate location

Investigate witness

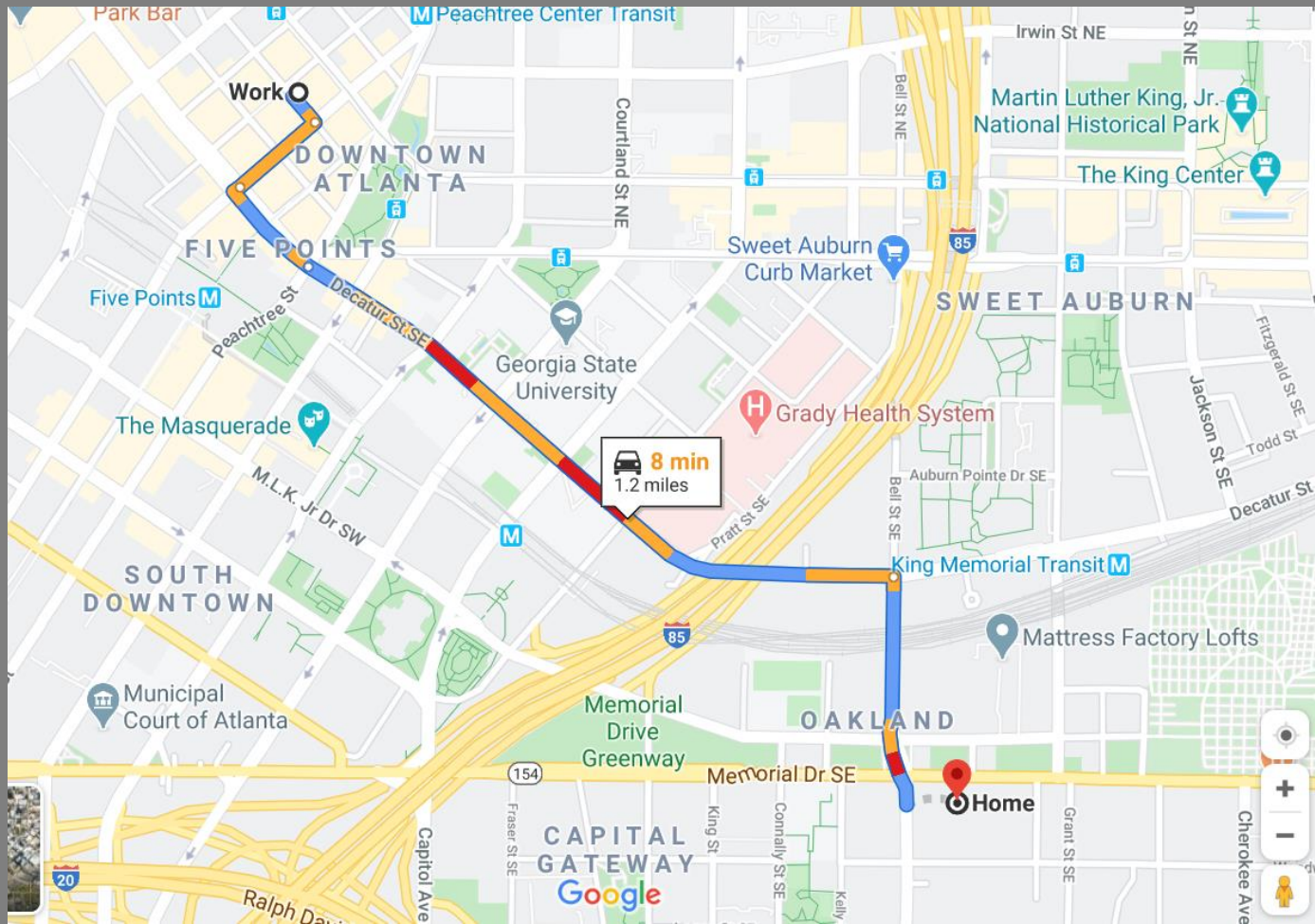
Consider timing



# Google map view of address map and street







# Attire

Be comfortable

Avoid wearing heels

Minimal jewelry



# BELONGINGS

Bag size and contents

Put everything you won't need in the trunk

Carry your cell phone – will you have reception?

<http://webcoveragemap.rootmetrics.com/en-US>



5/31/2018

# RootMetrics Coverage Map



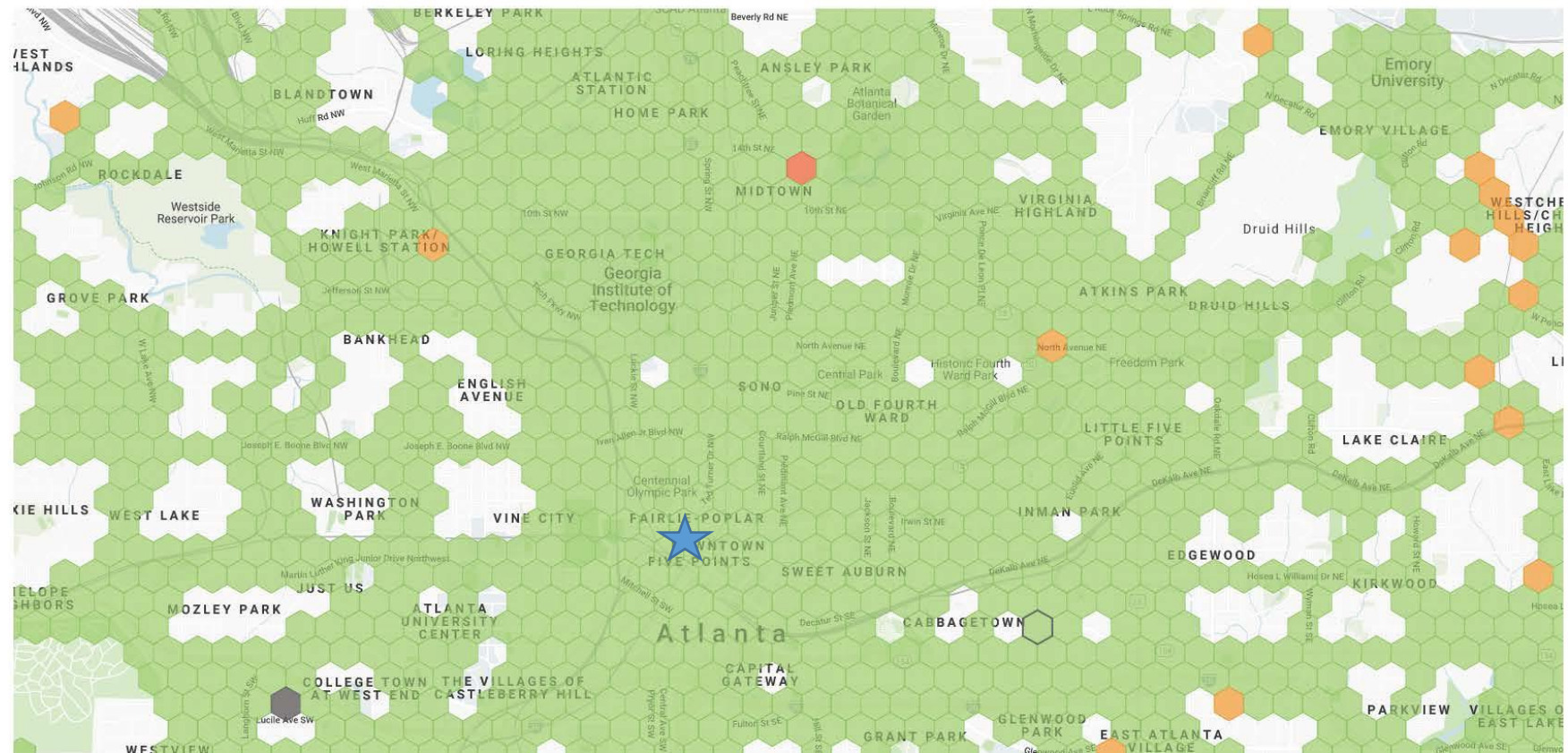
NETWORK  
Verizon

LAYER  
Call performance

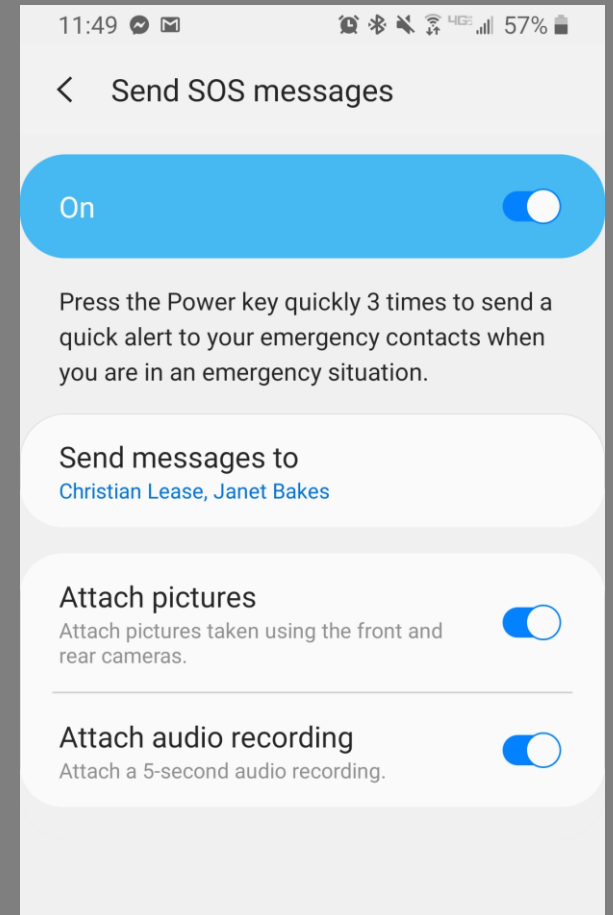
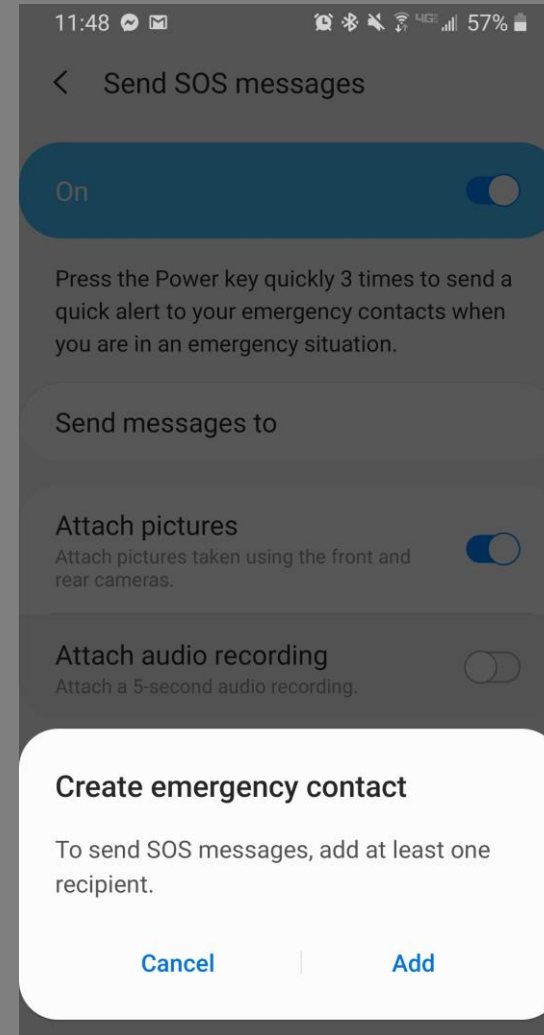
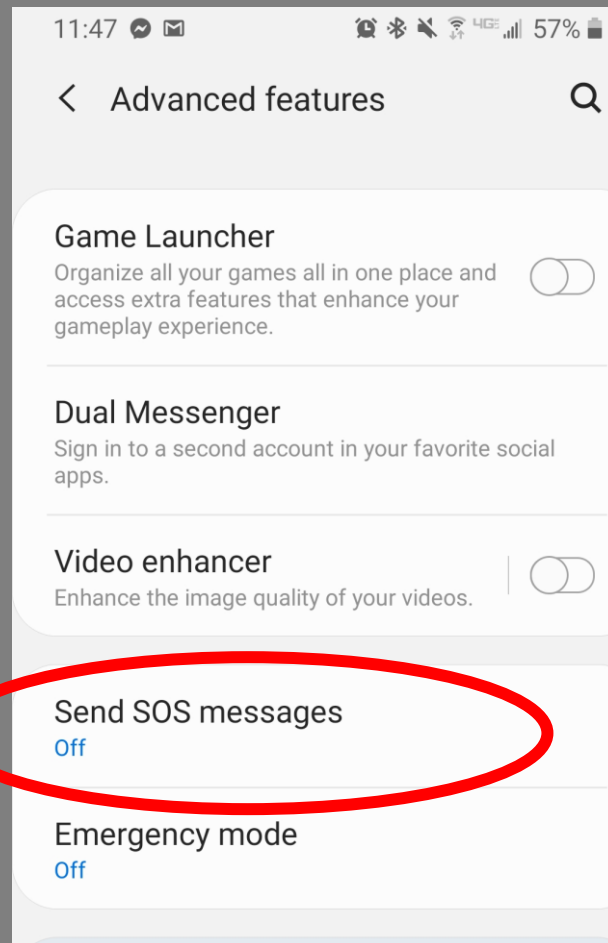
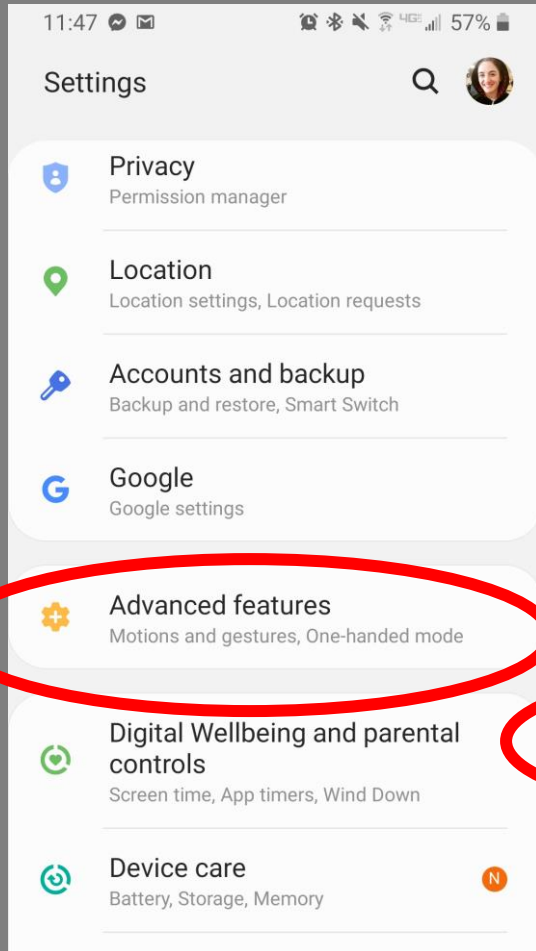
83 Poplar Street Northwest, Atlanta

★ 83 POPLAR STREET NW  
ATLANTA, GA 30303

Untested Bad Poor Fair Good ?



# Smartphone SOS feature android



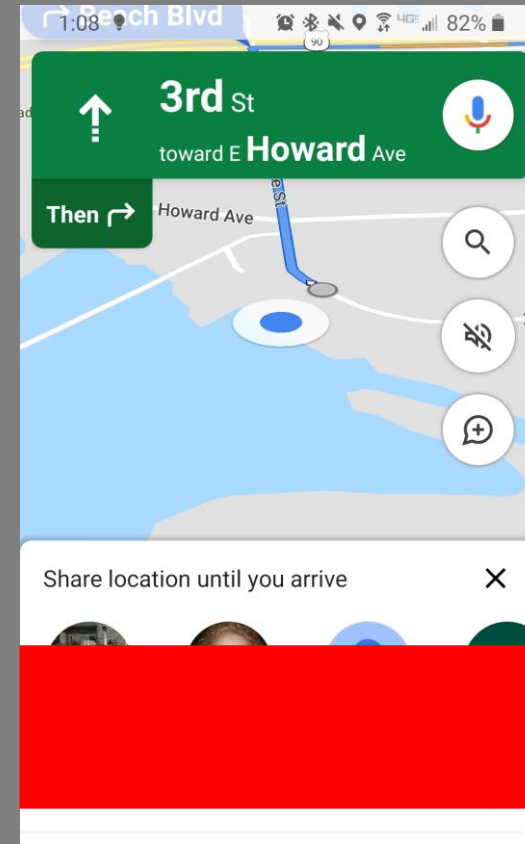
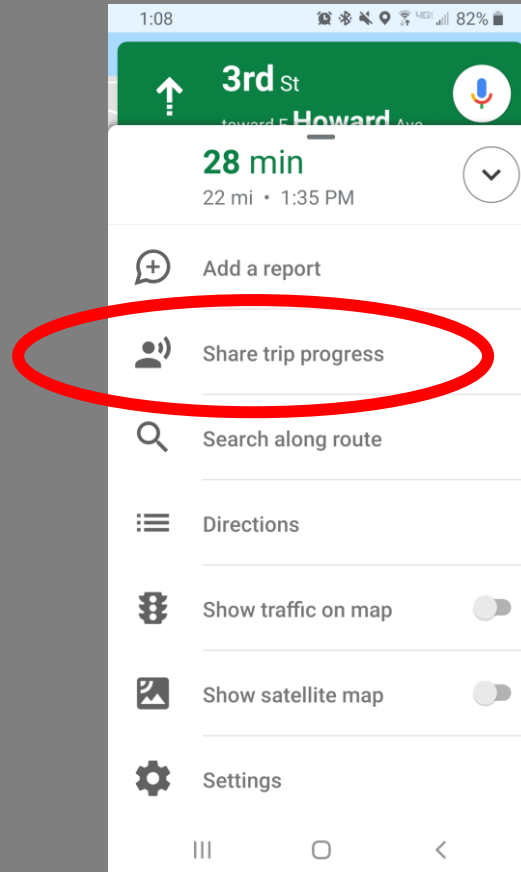
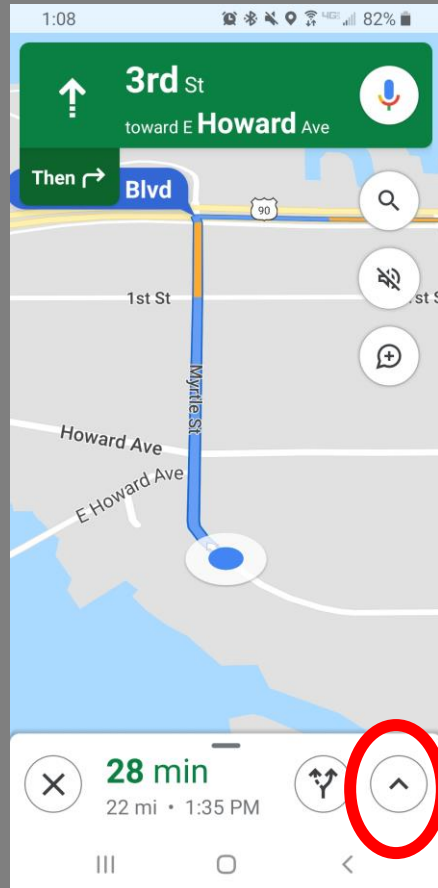


# Buddy system + informing office

STAFF	I	O	DESTINATION	RETURN	STAFF	I	O	DESTINATION	RETURN
AARON			Sick - call cell	Wed	CORTEZ				
AKIVA			parental leave	June 15?	JULIA				
ATTEEYAH			GSU Law	PM	TERRICA				
GERRY			Fridge repair		TRISH				
KATE				WEDS.	MARYSIDNEY			VACATION	FRI
KATIE			WAYCROSS	THURS.	SARA T.			DC	6/4
MARK			WAYCROSS	THURS.	MARISSA			Vacation	June 4
MICHAEL			Waycross (Tues) / Greenville (Wed)		HANNAH				
PATRICK					TIFFANY				
RYAN			MACON	PM					
SARAH G.			CDU Rt - MACON	Wed PM	STUDENTS	I	O	DESTINATION	RETURN
KRISTEN					AMY				
MARY					CASEY				
MAYA			MAcon → PPS	2/3	CATHERINE				
SARAH F.					DAVID				
WYNNE			MAcon	PM	DOMINIQUE				
ALICIA			231 Crisp Sup. Court	Fri	GRAINNE				
KACEY			244 Intern training		IMANI				
					MADHURI				
					SAFA				
					SARAH				
					WESLEY				
					ZACHARY				

# Location sharing

- AVAILABLE ON GOOGLEMAPS, FACEBOOK MESSENGER AND WHATSAPP



# ARRIVING

Drive by once

Identify parking

Dogs

When exiting the car, do not turn your back on target home

Walk tall and with purpose, even when lost

Do not enter home if you feel unsafe

Keep keys handy

# During the interview

- Identify exits and position yourself near one
- Scan the room/location for potential safety hazards
- Be mindful of people entering and exiting the location
- If you feel uneasy inside, ask the witness to talk with you outside



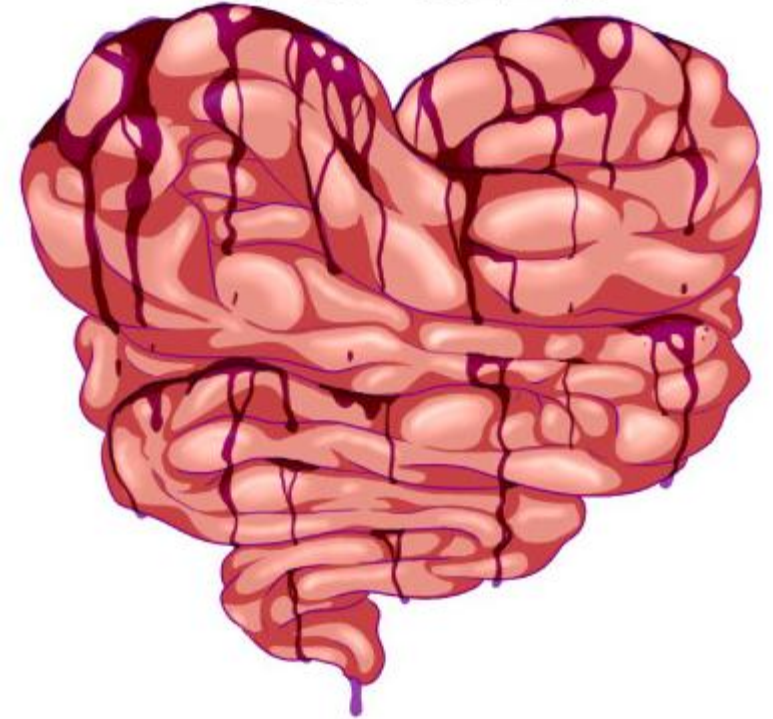
# LEAVING

Do not hang out outside

Do not wait for person to get home anywhere in the vicinity of their house.

POTENTIALLY  
DANGEROUS  
SITUATIONS

**FOLLOW  
YOUR**





# Safety in prisons and jails

# Applying Safety Planning Principles to P&A Work

Have a Framework with the following elements:

- Consider guidelines and checklists to guide your analysis of health, safety and client/staff office flow considerations
- Have internal policies/procedures (and clarifications) to make sure they work
- Inform and train staff
- Application to Monitoring and Investigations (and outreach)

# Applying Safety Planning Principles to P&A Work

- Consider Workplace Safety Assessments and Customer Flow
- <https://www.cdc.gov/workplacehealthpromotion/model/assessment/environmental.html>
- <https://safetyculture.com/checklists/office-safety/>
- <https://safety.unsw.edu.au/office-safety-toolkit/office-hazards-and-risks>
- [https://social-innovation.hitachi/en-us/case\\_studies/peopleflow/](https://social-innovation.hitachi/en-us/case_studies/peopleflow/)
- Not endorsing any of these; just examples to make the point

# Applying Safety Planning Principles to P&A Work

- Internal Policy and Process
- [Minneapolis office safety policy, resource phone numbers and internal extensions.pdf](#)
- [Notes for supervisor meeting on Safety.pdf](#)
- Client conduct code



# Applying Safety Planning Principles to P&A Work

- De-escalation Training
  - May consider this training as a strategy to protect and empower oneself rather than impose it as a requirement
  - In other words, it is not the responsibility of your staff (intake, front desk, whoever) to de-escalate a situation or person. Rather, it is a self-safety tool.
- Investigate local options
- Partner with local law enforcement; build relationship
- Consider building security

# Applying Safety Planning Principles to P&A Work

## Application to Monitoring and Investigation (and Outreach)

- Sarah's resources
- Include safety issues in overall research prior to going out
- Include research as element of monitoring protocol
- Review protocol and resources annually
- Designate point person on staff in addition to Legal Director
- Pair newer and more experienced staff
  - Bonus Tip: have one bill to PADD and one to PAIMI for facilities that have both I/DD and PAIMI eligible populations
- Have point person talk with newer staff about what to expect

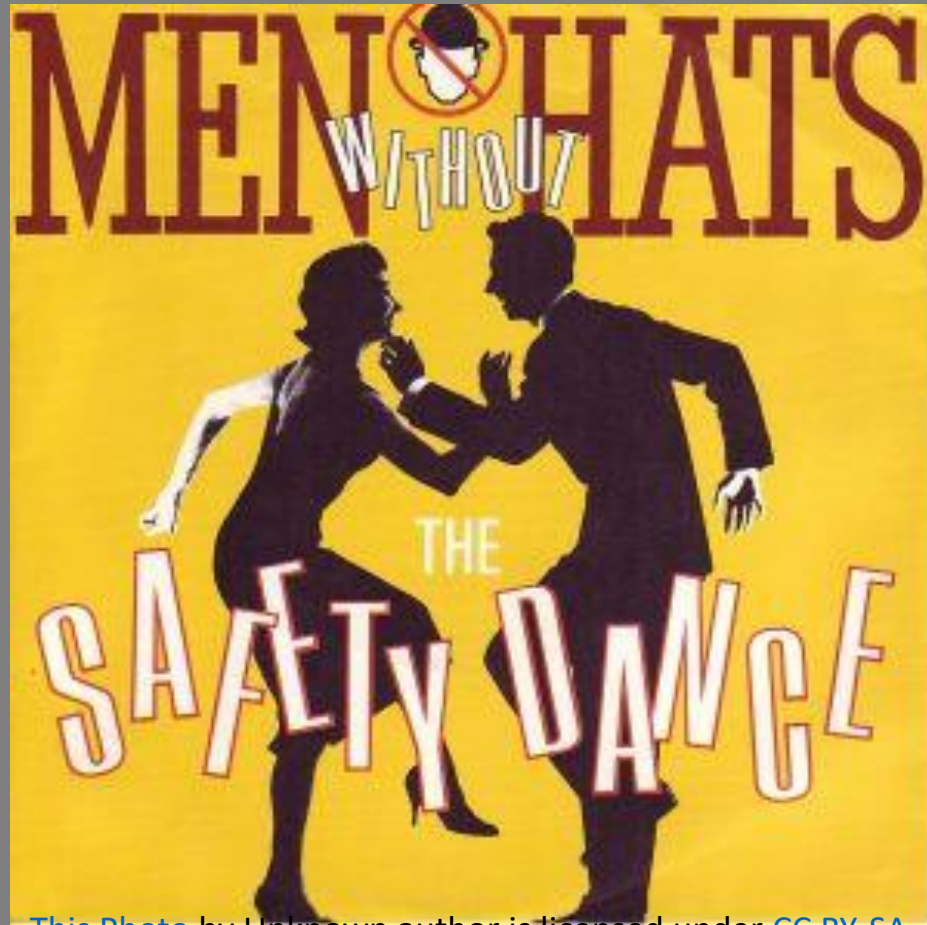
# Applying Safety Planning Principles to P&A Work

- Bottom lines:
  - P&A should consider:
    - How to organize their thoughts around safety (checklists, guidelines, etc)
    - How to make the process work in reality
    - How to train staff to know their roles and how to inform clients and visitors
    - How to empower staff with critical de-escalation techniques
    - How to apply principles to monitoring, investigations, and outreach

# Contact Information

- Diane Smith Howard: [diane.smithhoward@ndrn.org](mailto:diane.smithhoward@ndrn.org)
- Sarah Forte, [\*sforte@schr.org\*](mailto:sforte@schr.org)
- Daniel Stewart, [djstewart@mylegalaid.org](mailto:djstewart@mylegalaid.org)

# Questions



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