PSU SSW Field Education Plan for
Interruption of Field Placement Due
to National or Local Events

The PSU SSW has developed a plan to address temporary disruption to students’ social work field placements due to national or local events such as communicable diseases, natural disasters, and/or civil unrest.

If students are advised by their agency, field instructor, and/or government to not attend their field placement, or if safety concerns warrant a temporary disruption in field placement, students should immediately consult with BOTH their SSW Field Liaison and their Field Instructor/Task Supervisor. Students are expected to follow the protocol of their field agency.

In efforts to fulfill the intern’s hour requirements and educational competencies during temporary field placement stoppages, we are providing alternative field learning activities that can be completed off site, with the approval of a student’s field instructor.

This policy is meant to address short term field placement disruptions, with a maximum of 30 days. If the field placement stoppage continues beyond a 30-day period, a review will be conducted by the SSW Field Education Program to determine the most appropriate response to support students in completing their field placement requirements.

**Alternative Learning Activities**

During the stoppage, Field Instructors and Task Supervisors should assign students off-site alternative field learning activities that the student may complete in the event of a temporary field disruption. There should be agreement between the field instructor and student regarding a general idea of how many hours of work (through the alternative learning activities) will be logged on the student’s Timesheet.

Examples of alternative field learning activities are listed below.

- **Supervision:** Weekly supervision using Zoom or other teleconferencing applications.

- **Meetings with individuals, families, and groups** utilizing teleconferencing applications that can be accessed via computer, tablet, and/or telephone; provided teleconferencing applications meet any agency requirements regarding HIPPA and/or confidentiality.

- **Trainings for Agency:** develop trainings that will benefit the agency (ex- self-care, ethics, etc.)
• **Groups/Workshops for Clients:** develop curriculum for future implementation with clients (ex- life skills, grief, trauma, domestic violence, etc.)

• **Written Materials for Clients or Community:** develop handouts/flyers/brochures (ex- explain voting rights, informed consent policies, etc.)

• **Organizational Policy Review:** review agency policies with suggestions/recommendations where appropriate (ex- safety policies, diversity policies, use of social media, utilization of technology, etc.)

• **Legislative Policy Review:** review relevant laws and policies impacting the population students work with (ex- Indian Child Welfare Act, Emergency Mental Health Holds, Homeless Camping Ban, etc.) and provide a synopsis of key takeaways or prepare advocacy materials (letter to editor, develop key talking points, etc.)

• **Literature Review:** conduct a literature review on a specific topic relevant to field placement (ex- effectiveness of an intervention, how interruption of services impacts mental health or economic stability, etc.)

• **Grants:** research potential grant opportunities and/or prepare aspects of the grant writing.

• **Community Networking/Resource Development:** teleconference with various service providers, participating in resource mapping, and develop a list of resources for clients with services offered, referral process, etc.

• **Complete online trainings:** complete assigned trainings and provide a certification of completion and/or a brief written reflection and/or prepare a presentation to disseminate knowledge gained.

Field Instructors and Task Supervisors may come up with other activities or trainings in addition to the ones listed on this page. **All activities should be pre-approved by their agency supervisor.**