

Before you go

Always try to speak to the client yourself. Use this opportunity to find out exactly what he wants, and make sure you're comfortable with it. Be clear about the costs before you go.

If the client sounds drunk or stoned, seriously consider whether you want to take the job.

If they're in a hotel:

Get the client's room number and name of the hotel and tell them you'll call them back through the hotel reception. If he isn't happy for you to do that, don't go - he's hiding something. Get the hotel number from the Yellow Pages, yell.com or directory enquiries - don't accept any number he gives you.

Call him back through the hotel reception (and ask reception how many people are booked into the room) and arrange to meet him.

Always meet for the first time in a public place, such as the hotel bar, especially if you haven't been able to speak to him yourself before going.

If they're at home:

Get their address and landline number and call directory enquiries to check that they match. If he doesn't want you to do that, he's hiding something. Don't go to someone's home if you can't confirm a landline number.

Once you've confirmed the number, call them back and make arrangements.

Tell someone where you're going and when you think you'll be back.

On your way there

Pay attention to the area and look out for places of safety, like bus stops, taxi queues, busy streets, open shops, pubs and garages.

If you're going to their home, look out for lights on in houses nearby. It's important to know how isolated - or not - you are, and where you can get help. How many cars are parked in their driveway or in front? If there's more than one, be wary, and if there are more than two you should hear definite alarm bells ringing.

When you get there

Pay close attention to which way the door

opens and locks. If there's a key in the door, don't let them lock it and pocket it.

Memorise the layout of the hotel or house and clock escape routes from the bedroom or suite. Ask to use the bathroom - this will give you a chance to get an idea of the layout.

Note where the phone is kept.

Give the room a quick scan and try to file away details like pictures on the wall, decor, layout, furniture and any personal belongings the client has left out, so you can identify the room if you need to.

When you're scanning the room, keep an eye out for any hidden cameras.

If you feel uncertain or have a bad feeling, leave immediately. Trust your instincts.

If you start to feel scared or get attacked, try to keep calm and get to a busy public place as soon as you can. Try to leave a small personal object hidden in the room, like a piece of jewelry or a wrapped condom (make sure you know the brand name) so that you can prove you were in the room if you decide to report the attack to the police.

"I think the key to this one is weighing up the risks against a loss of custom. I have always been super strict about my appointments (never accepting an in-call without an email address and a mobile number, and refusing to see the client if he will not display his number or uses a different number after this has been explained). No doubt this has lost me numerous harmless clients who feel that it isn't worth the risk for them for a working girl to have these details about them, and that's fair play from my point of view. I have also lost bookings because I refuse to do an outcall without a) calling the hotel to make sure the client is booked in under the name he has given me and b) calling the room number before I leave to make sure the client is there and indeed booked in that room under that name. Again, I don't hold anything against anyone who isn't comfortable with this. I have also opened the door after receiving all of these details, gotten a bad feeling and cancelled the appointment on the spot with an excuse rather than go against my instincts (and again I would hold nothing against a client if he did the same)."

- advice shared by a sex worker on the web