

Suicidal Ideation/Threat Procedure

1. Identify threat based on personal observation or shared information
 - a. Do not leave the child unattended, and do not make promises of confidentiality
 - b. Ensure the student is in a safe, private area
2. Notify administrator and school counselor immediately
3. Counselor will administer a risk assessment
4. If the student has a disability, alert the assigned case manager
5. Administrator or counselor will contact the parent/guardian with details of the report, as well as the findings of the risk assessment.
 - a. When appropriate, or if parents refuse to cooperate, contact Lehigh County Crisis Intervention at 610-782-3127 to pursue a possible 302.
6. If it is suspected that a student's risk status is the result of abuse or neglect, that individual must make a report to PA ChildLine at 800-932-0313. An administrator or school counselor may facilitate the contact between the reporting staff member and ChildLine.
7. Document observations, risk assessments, recommendations, and actions conducted throughout the intervention and assessment process, including all verbal and written communications with students, parents/guardians, and mental health service providers.

Risk Factors and Warning Signs

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Talk</u></p> <p>If a person talks about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Being a burden to others ● Feeling trapped ● Experiencing unbearable pain ● Having no reason to live ● Killing themselves 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Behavior</u></p> <p>Specific things to look out for include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increased use of alcohol or drugs ● Looking for a way to kill themselves, such as searching online for materials or means ● Acting recklessly ● Withdrawing from activities ● Isolating from family and friends ● Sleeping too much or too little ● Visiting or calling people to say goodbye ● Giving away prized possessions ● Aggression 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Mood</u></p> <p>People who are considering suicide often display one or more of the following moods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Depression ● Loss of interest ● Rage ● Irritability ● Humiliation ● Anxiety
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Health Factors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Depression ● Bipolar disorder ● Schizophrenia ● Borderline or antisocial personality disorder ● Conduct disorder ● Psychotic disorders, or psychotic symptoms in the context of any disorder ● Anxiety disorders ● Substance abuse disorders ● Serious or chronic health condition and/or pain 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Environmental Factors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stressful life events which may include a death, divorce, or job loss ● Prolonged stress factors which may include harassment, bullying, relationship problems, and unemployment ● Access to lethal means including firearms and drugs ● Exposure to another person's suicide, or to graphic or sensationalized accounts of suicide 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Historical Factors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Previous suicide attempts ● Family history of suicide attempts