

STUDENT SERVICES

File: JHH-R

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Duties of Teachers and Administrative Staff

- A. Any licensed instructional or administrative staff member who has reason to believe that a student is at imminent risk of suicide shall promptly report this matter to a qualified professional identified in the paragraph below, while keeping the student safe.

Qualified Professional

- A. The following licensed professionals are designated to assess suicide risks in students under this regulation:
 - 1. school psychologists assigned to schools,
 - 2. clinical psychologists assigned to schools.

Additional qualified professionals may include one or more of the following: school counselor, school nurse (RN or LPN), and/or school social worker.

Duties of the Qualified Professional

- A. The qualified professional shall promptly meet with the student to determine whether the student is at imminent risk of suicide.

Abuse and Neglect

- A. If a student is determined to be at imminent risk of suicide and has indicated that the reason for this risk relates to parental abuse or neglect, the qualified professional shall not contact the parent/guardian.
- B. Instead, the qualified professional shall immediately report the alleged abuse to the Department of Social Services in accordance with [Policy JHG](#) and the Memorandum of Understanding between CCS and the Department of Social Services.
- C. The qualified professional needs to emphasize to the Department of Social Services that immediate action is necessary to protect the student from harm.

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Contacting the Parent/Guardian

- A. If a student is determined to be at imminent risk of suicide, and if the above section titled "Abuse and Neglect" does not apply, the qualified professional shall immediately call at least one of the student's parents/guardians. When contacting a parent/guardian, the qualified professional should:
1. Provide his/her name and position in the school;
 2. Tell the parent/guardian that in his/her professional judgment, the student is at imminent risk of suicide;
 3. Assure the parent/guardian that the student is currently safe;
 4. State the legal requirement for the call, citing § 22.1-272.1 of the Code of Virginia;
 5. Ask the parent/guardian whether he or she is aware of the student's mental state;
 6. Ask the parent/guardian whether he or she wishes to obtain or has obtained mental counseling for the student;
 7. Provide names of community counseling resources if appropriate and offer to facilitate the referral; and
 8. Determine the parent's intent to seek appropriate services for the student.

Inability to Reach Parent/Guardian

- A. If the qualified professional is unable to make contact with the parent/guardian by the end of the school day, then the professional shall seek treatment for the student without the parent's/guardian's authorization.
- B. The principal or other staff member shall continue to contact the parents/guardians and a staff member, preferably the qualified professional who has been working with the student, shall remain with the child until the parent/guardian is located or another authorized person or agency (DSS, medical facility, etc.) accepts responsibility for the child.

Additional Concerns

- A. If parent/guardian contact is made and, in the course of this contact, relevant issues of abuse or neglect are discovered (e.g., a parent acknowledges the child's suicidal intent but indicates no intent to act for the well-being of the child), the qualified professional shall report the abuse or neglect in accordance with [regulation JHG](#) and the MOU.

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Follow-up

- A. After a student has been identified or determined to be at imminent risk of suicide, the qualified professional shall make appropriate follow-up contact to ascertain the current status of the student and facilitate any in-school support that may be required.
- B. When the student returns to school, the qualified professional shall monitor the student's progress. The professional shall make any necessary contacts with the parent or other persons or agencies working with the student if any concerns are identified.

Required Documentation for Threat Assessment

- A. The qualified professional shall document, using the Threat Assessment Form, the threat assessment and plan by recording the:
 - (a) time and date of the call to parent/guardian;
 - (b) parent/guardian response;
 - (c) response plan agreed upon; and
 - (d) anticipated follow-up.
- B. The qualified professional and other persons working with the student shall document in writing the progress of the plan and any additional concerns.
- C. The documentation shall be maintained confidentially and accessible only to school personnel working directly with the student.

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Legal References: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, sections 22.1-272.1, 63.2-1509

Virginia Board of Education "Suicide Prevention Guidelines,"
October 1999.

Cross References: JHG Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting
EB School Safety and Crisis Management