

Suicidal Ideation and Mandated Reporting

School Resources to Support Military-Connected Students is a project by the Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness an applied research center at The Pennsylvania State University and is funded by the Department of Defense Education Activity Grant number HE1254-19-0009.

For more information on these resources click on the links below:

<https://schoolresources.militaryfamilies.psu.edu/>

<https://militaryfamilies.psu.edu/>

<https://www.psu.edu/>

<https://dodeagrants.org/>

Our goal is to provide school personnel with free, evidence-based resources to support military-connected students. This training is part of our Suicide Prevention series.

Important Reminders

Before starting this training, please read the items below carefully and check the box in front of each item to indicate your understanding.

- The following content discusses suicide and may be upsetting to some individuals.
- Follow all district, local, state, and federal regulations. This training is **NOT** intended to replace or override existing procedures or laws.

Introduction

What is the purpose of this training?

Child Protective Services (CPS) substantiates or finds evidence to indicate that a child is a victim of child abuse every 9 minutes. In most cases, school personnel are mandated reporters, meaning they are obligated to immediately report any indication of child neglect or abuse to the appropriate authorities.

<https://www.rainn.org/statistics/children-and-teens>

Utilize the information compiled by the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) to identify who is considered a mandated reporter in your state.

<https://apps.rainn.org/policy/compare/children.cfm>

Objective

The goal of this training is to increase your confidence in your ability to:

Identify situations in which mandated reporting would be required during the suicide risk assessment process.

How confident are you in your ability to do this now?

Please click on the link below to submit your response.

https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6Gp3iBH1vhcTluR?modulenumber=suicide23

Verify that you have completed each of the tasks below before proceeding with this training.

Answered the survey question in the link.

Clicked the arrow underneath the survey question to submit your response.

Recorded the ID number provided after you submitted your answer to the survey question. You will need it to complete the survey at the end of this training.

Research

What is most important for me to know?

There may be instances of when mandated reporting would be required as part of the suicide risk assessment process, including:

- When parent notification of suicide risk could reasonably be expected to increase the risk of child maltreatment
- When parents refuse to sign the emergency notification form
- When parents refuse to take necessary action to secure the safety of their child or address medical needs

If students are insistent that they do not want suicidal ideation shared with their parents, this is a sign for student support personnel to find out why, as this may be a reason to explore safety concerns.

There may also be precipitating stressors to suicidal ideation that require reporting as a mandated report or criminal report, such as an assault by a fellow student in school. For instance, consider the following case study:

During a structured interview at a Pennsylvania school psychology clinic where suicidal ideation was shared, a client disclosed sexual assault. Specifically, the client was molested on various occasions throughout 8th grade when changing in the gym locker room and was sexually assaulted by an 8th grade student in the school bathroom when the client was in 6th grade.

The school psychology clinicians and supervisors thought that because it was a peer-to-peer assault and no adult was involved, that a mandated report would not need to be made. However, according to an article in the Pennsylvania Psychologist, students 13 years old and under cannot legally consent to sexual relations. Given that the client was 12 years old at the time of the assault and did not provide consent, a mandated report was warranted.

Click to visit the Darkness to Light website

Click the link below to see the answers to some common questions about mandated reporting.

[Mandatory Reporting - Darkness to Light \(d2l.org\)](https://www.d2l.org/mandatory-reporting)

Application

How might this look in my professional practice?

Remember that the goal of this training is to increase your confidence in your ability to:

Identify situations in which mandated reporting would be required during the suicide risk assessment process.

Are you aware of your school's policies for reporting instances of suspected abuse or criminal behavior? Take a moment to review those policies now. You may also find it useful to review any relevant state laws in the Compendium of School Discipline Laws and Regulations for the 50 States, District of Columbia and the U.S. Territories.

Click on the link below to review these laws and policies.

[School Discipline Laws and Regulations Compendium.pdf \(ed.gov\)](#)

Implementation

How can I effectively implement this content in my professional practice?

Please review the considerations below regarding potential implementation strategies, barriers to implementation, and collaboration strategies related to this content. This will help you coordinate the next steps as you begin to incorporate the information presented in this training into your professional practice.

This information can also be found on a handout that you will be able to download at the end of this training.

Implementation Strategies

- Regular training regarding your state's mandated reporting and child abuse laws, including medical neglect, should be conducted and documented.
- Develop decision trees based upon your state's laws for mandated reporting and keep all phone numbers, internet addresses, and other information posted and ready for all staff and faculty.

Overcoming Barriers to Implementation

- Sometimes well-intended professionals have hesitation about making mandated reports, usually due to poor training. Conduct regular training with times for discussion to help dispel myths and fears.

Collaboration Strategies

- Develop a network of colleagues both inside and outside your school to regularly discuss issues of crisis and mandated reporting so that you always have support.
- Develop relationships with local mental health providers, social services employees, and law enforcement in order to support better continuity of care for students.

Resources

Are there any resources available to help me implement this content?

Click on the link below to download a tool that you can use to implement this content in your professional practice.

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:279a48a3-41c7-4f04-aeel-af89d8ff6765>

Feedback

How can I help improve this training?

The objective of this training was to increase your confidence in your ability to:

Identify situations in which mandated reporting would be required during the suicide risk assessment process.

Answer the questions in the link below to let us know how well this training increased your confidence in your ability to accomplish this objective. Once you have answered all of the questions, click the blue arrow button underneath to submit your responses.

https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d771mLr9ZgW3kyx?modulenumber=suicide23

Verify that you have completed each of the tasks below.

Answered all of the survey questions above. You may have to scroll to see all of the questions.
Clicked the arrow underneath the last survey question to submit your responses.

Additional Readings

Where can I learn more about this content?

The following resources were used to create this training. If you would like more information about the information presented in this training, we encourage you to start here.

Children and Teens: Statistics. (n.d.). Retrieved November 11, 2020, from <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/children-and-teens>

Darling-Churchill, K., Stuart-Cassel, V., Ryberg, R., Schmitz, H., Balch, J., Bezinque, A., & Conway-Turner, J. (2013). Compendium of school discipline laws and regulations for the 50 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico. 1–15. <http://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/School-Discipline-Compendium>.

Mandatory Reporting Requirements: Children. (n.d.). Retrieved November 11, 2020, from <https://apps.rainn.org/policy/compare/children.cfm>

Mandatory Reporting. (2020, August 04). Retrieved November 13, 2020, from <https://www.d2l.org/get-help/reporting/mandatory-reporting/>

Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to complete this training. If you have any questions or comments, please email us at schoolresources@psu.edu.

Proceed to the next training

Click on the link below to move on to the next training titled *Safety Plans to Prevent Student Suicide*. In this training, you will increase your confidence in your ability to help students at risk of suicide create a safety plan.

https://learning.militaryfamilies.psu.edu/school-resources/modules/suicide_24-safety-plans-to-prevent-student-suicide_201022/

Return to the module directory

Click on the link below to return to the module directory.

<https://schoolresources.militaryfamilies.psu.edu/modules/>