

## Ventura County Behavioral Health Crisis Guidelines for Schools

### CRISIS TEAM

Steps to take *BEFORE* calling CT:

1. Is there a “hands on” need (e.g., elopement risk, violent behaviors)? If so, call law enforcement.
2. Is there is a medical concern, drug/alcohol intoxication, and/or recent overdose? If so, seek immediate medical treatment.
3. Have you consulted internally and exhausted all measures of de-escalation per your internal risk assessment/risk management protocols?
4. **Have you involved the parents/caregivers? Best practice is to have parents on scene, gather background information, and attempt to collaboratively deescalate the crisis *prior* to seeking outside intervention (e.g., Crisis Team).**
5. If these steps have been taken and a higher-level emergency mental health assessment is indicated, VCBH Crisis Team can be reached at

**866-998-2243**

Please have the following ready to share:

- Client’s name, DOB, and preferred language
- Clinically significant information on why the youth is at risk of killing him/herself and/or others
- Mental health history (if any), including most recent diagnosis, history of suicidal/homicidal behaviors and psychiatric hospitalizations
- Name of parent(s)/guardian(s) currently on scene and the preferred language

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

1. If there is an immediate safety risk:
  - a. Potential for violence?
  - b. Potential for AWOL?
  - c. Anything that might require “hands on”
2. If Crisis Team not available

### 911

High Lethality? High Risk? Medical Emergency? OD? Injury? Weapon? Crime in progress?

### Possible Outcomes of the Crisis Team/Law Enforcement Crisis Assessment

**MEDICAL ATTENTION NEEDED:** Ambulance to ER

**PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALIZATION OR CHILDREN’S CRISIS STABILIZATION UNIT (CSU) ADMIT—***Will be on involuntary (5585) or voluntary status:*

*\*Transport may be conducted by ambulance (vol or invol), LE (typically only for invol to CSU or EDs), or by parent/guardian (vol)*

### NOT GOING TO PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL OR TO CSU?

#### If Crisis Team

1. De-escalate/Stabilize Situation
2. Safety Plan
3. Linkage to needed services
4. Follow-up next day (or sooner) by Crisis Team and/or RISE (VCBH’s support and engagement team).

#### If Law Enforcement

1. De-escalate/Stabilize Situation
2. Connect with VCBH (Crisis Team 866#) and/or insurance to help link to treatment/services