

708 Suicide Screening

Major objectives:

To appropriately determine children or youth who are at risk for suicide and connect them and their family to needed resources.

Practice Guidelines

A. Child Protective Services

1. During the child interview, the Youth Suicide Screener will be completed on every alleged child victim/perpetrator age 10 or older, unless the child has been identified by a reliable source/caregiver as not being developmentally able to be interviewed. The CPS caseworker will follow the prompts on the suicide screener and contact parents/guardians or other emergency services when indicated.

B. In-Home Services or Foster Care

1. The Youth Suicide Screener will be completed for every foster youth or in-home youth age 10 or older during the following situations, unless the child has been identified by a reliable source/caregiver as not being developmentally able to be interviewed:
 - a. The first weekly home visit by the foster care caseworker, or first home visit by the in-home caseworker, or when the UFACET is completed with the family.
 - b. The screener is updated every time a subsequent UFACET is completed.
 - c. Anytime there is a concern the child may be experiencing suicidal ideations.
 - (1) If the child is in therapy, the caseworker will contact the therapist as well as complete the screener with the child. The caseworker will request that the therapist assess the situation and ensure appropriate services are in place.

C. Post Adoption Services

1. The post adopt worker will complete the Youth Suicide Screener with all target children 10 or older at the beginning of the case or at any time the child may be experiencing suicidal ideations. If the child has been identified by a reliable source/caregiver as not being developmentally able to be interviewed, the screener will not need to be completed.

D. Third Party Assessments

1. If the CJC, therapist, or medical facility has already completed a trauma screener, that includes a suicide screening section, with the child and the screener is still relevant and available, the caseworker does not need to complete another screener, but should obtain a copy or a verbal summary of the results. If the

- 44 screener or the results cannot be shared, the caseworker will need to complete the
45 Youth Suicide Screener.
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- 47 E. Once the Screener is completed:
- 48 1. If the youth answered YES to question 3, 4, or 5, on the screener, contact the
49 parent/caregiver immediately. Discuss the results of the screener and verify the
50 parent/caregiver is connected to the appropriate mental health services to support
51 the youth.
- 52 a. The caseworker will provide resources to the family including brochures,
53 crisis line information, local mental health. The caseworker may provide,
54 based upon the needs of the youth and the family, gun locks and/or
55 medication lock boxes.
- 56 b. If the youth also answers YES to question 6, contact the parent/caregiver
57 immediately to safety plan. If there is no parent or caregiver available or if
58 the parent or caregiver is unable or unwilling to manage the concerns of
59 suicide, contact the emergency suicide hotline for immediate help (801)
60 587-3000. The youth should not be left alone.
- 61 2. Cases should not be closed if questions 3, 4, 5, or 6 are answered YES on the
62 screener, until the caseworker has connected the family to appropriate services
63 and the family is protective.
- 64 3. All screeners completed by the caseworker or third party will be uploaded into
65 the Suicide Screener file category of Content Manager in SAFE. If the screener
66 information has been shared verbally to the caseworker, the caseworker will fill
67 out the Youth Suicide Screener to match the information provided by the third
68 party. The caseworker will document in the activity logs when the screener was
69 completed and will attach the "Suicide Screener Completed" policy. If the
70 caseworker was unable to complete the screener due to the child refusing or the
71 child is not developmentally able to be interviewed, the caseworker will document
72 this in the activity logs and will attach the "Suicide Screener Refused or Not
73 Required per Policy" policy.
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