

## 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

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 aged 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

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. To aid in the completion of the suicide screener an app is available called “Columbia Protocol.” The app is in the DTS app catalog.

1. When using the app, it is required that you block the sharing of your location. This is the first question asked when using the screener.

2. The worker will still complete the Suicide Screener tool in SAFE with the information gathered.

### E. Third Party Assessments

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 screener or the results cannot be shared, the caseworker will need to complete the Youth Suicide Screener.

### F. Once the Screener is completed:

1. If the youth answered YES to question 3, 4, or 5, on the screener, contact the parent/caregiver immediately. Discuss the results of the screener and verify the parent/caregiver is connected to the appropriate mental health services to support the youth.
  - a. The caseworker will provide resources to the family including brochures, crisis line information, and local mental health. The caseworker may provide, based upon the needs of the youth and the family, gun locks and/or medication lock boxes.
  - b. If the youth also answers YES to question 6, contact the parent/caregiver immediately to safety plan. If there is no parent or caregiver available or if the parent or caregiver is unable or unwilling to manage the concerns of suicide, contact the emergency suicide hotline for immediate help dial 988. The youth should not be left alone.
2. Cases should not be closed if questions 3, 4, 5, or 6 are answered YES on the screener, until the caseworker has connected the family to appropriate services and the family is protective.
3. All screeners completed by a third party will be uploaded into the Suicide Screener file category of Content Manager in SAFE. If the screener information has been shared verbally to the caseworker, the caseworker will complete the Suicide Screener case tool to match the information provided by the third party.