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Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 Cedar Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Department of Human Services



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Director

Identifying Warning Signs of Potential Violence

Learn to identify characteristics of persons who exhibit warning signs of potential violence.

Those who display these signs should be referred to appropriate agencies or individuals such as counselors, parents, law enforcement, and social, medical, and mental health services.

These signs simply mean that a child appears to be troubled, and violence might be one of the possible outcomes of this distress. Neither stigmatize children nor assume that they will be violent just because they are at risk for such behavior. Other warning signs may also exist. Consequently, this list should not be considered all-inclusive, and certain items and combinations may be far more indicative of a potential problem than others. The signs include:

- Has engaged in violent behavior in the past.
- Has tantrums and uncontrollable angry outbursts abnormal for someone that age.
 - Continues exhibiting antisocial behaviors that began at an early age.
- Forms and/or maintains friendships with others who have repeatedly engaged in problem behaviors.
 - Often engages in name calling, cursing, or abusive language.
 - Has brought a weapon or has threatened to bring a weapon to school.
 - Consistently makes violent threats when angry.
 - Has a substance abuse problem.
 - Is frequently truant or has been suspended from school on multiple occasions.
- Seems preoccupied with weapons or violence, especially that associated more with killing humans than with target practice or hunting.
 - Has few or no close friends despite having lived in the area for some time.
- Has a sudden decrease in academic performance and/or interest in school activities.
 - Is abusive to animals.
- Has too little parental supervision given the student's age and level of maturity.
 - Has been a victim of abuse or been neglected by parents/guardians.
 - Has repeatedly witnessed domestic abuse or other forms of violence.
 - Has experienced trauma or loss in their home or community.
 - Pays no attention to the feelings or rights of others.
 - Intimidates others.
 - Has been a victim of intimidation by others.
- Dwells on perceived slights, rejection, or mistreatment by others; blames others for his/her problems and appears vengeful.
- Seems to be preoccupied with TV shows, movies, video games, reading materials, or music that express violence.
 - Reflects excessive anger in writing projects.
 - Is involved in a gang or antisocial group.
- Seems depressed/withdrawn or has exhibited severe mood or behavioral swings, which appear greater in magnitude, duration, or frequency than those typically experienced by students that age.
 - Expresses sadistic, violent, prejudicial, or intolerant attitudes.
- Has threatened or actually attempted suicide or acts of unfashionable self-mutilation.

For assistance contact Newington Department of Human Services at 665-8590 or Info-Line 211

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