

Recognize the Warning Signs for Suicide to Save Lives!

Sometimes it can be difficult to tell warning signs from “normal” behavior, especially in adolescents. Ask yourself, *Is the behavior I am seeing very different for this particular person?* Also, recognize that sometimes those who are depressed can appear angry, irritable, and/or hostile in addition to withdrawn and quiet.

Take action if you see any of the following warning signs:

- Talking about or threatening to hurt or kill oneself
- Seeking firearms, drugs, or other lethal means for killing oneself
- Talking or writing about death, dying, or suicide
- Direct Statements or Less Direct Statements of Suicidal Intent: (Examples: “I’m just going to end it all” or “Everything would be easier if I wasn’t around.”)
- Feeling hopeless
- Feeling rage or uncontrollable anger or seeking revenge
- Feeling trapped - like there's no way out
- Dramatic mood changes
- Seeing no reason for living or having no sense of purpose in life
- Acting reckless or engaging in risky activities
- Increasing alcohol or drug use
- Withdrawing from friends, family, and society
- Feeling anxious or agitated
- Being unable to sleep, or sleeping all the time

For a more complete list of warning signs and more information on suicide prevention, please consult the *Connect* website at <http://www.theconnectprogram.org> and click on Understanding Suicide.

If you see warning signs and/or are otherwise worried that this person:

Connect with Your Loved One, Connect Them to Help

- 1) Ask directly about their suicidal feelings. Talking about suicide is the first step to preventing suicide!
- 2) Let them know you care.
- 3) Keep them away from anything that may cause harm such as guns, pills, ropes, knives, vehicles
- 3) Stay with them and get a professional involved.
- 4) Offer a message of hope - Let them know you will assist them in getting help.
- 5) Connect them with help:
 - National Suicide Lifeline (24/7) **1-800-273-TALK (8255)** (press “1” for veterans)
 - Headrest – For teens and adults (24/7) **1-800-639-6095** or your local community mental health center.
 - For an emergency, **dial 911**.