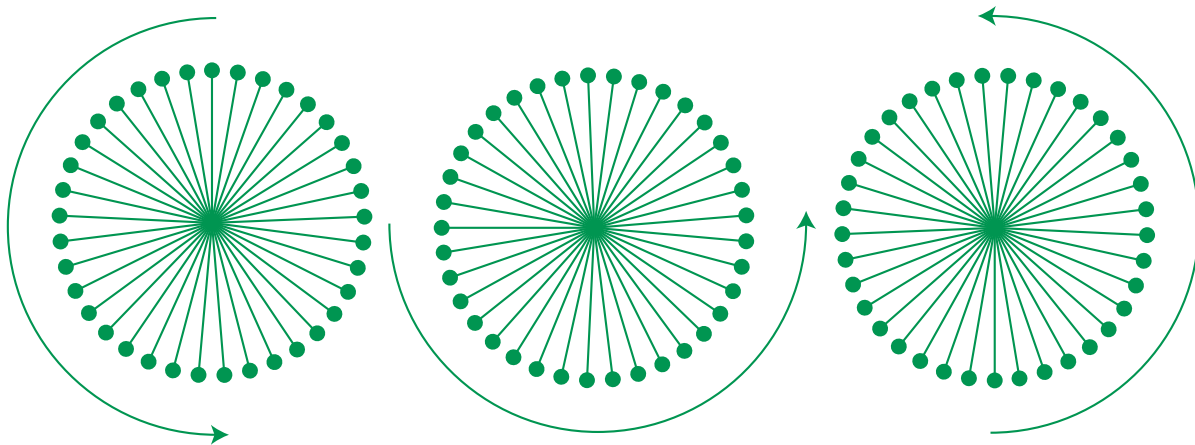


School Threat Assessment Training:

Using DCJS Model Policies,
Procedures, and Guidelines

PARTICIPANT MANUAL



2020

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
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THREAT ASSESSMENT RESOURCES
INTERNATIONAL



School Threat Assessment Training: Using DCJS Model Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines

(Updated January 2020)

A Training Curriculum Developed by:

Threat Assessment Resources International, LLC And
Sigma Threat Management Associates, PA

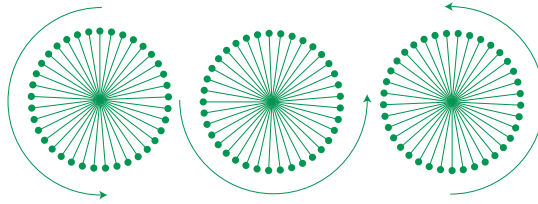
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INTRODUCTION



In 2013, the Virginia General Assembly enacted legislation to enhance school safety by providing for threat assessment teams to support every Virginia public school. In accordance with that new Virginia law, the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS), under the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) created model policies and procedures to help local school boards establish and operate threat assessment teams to support their local schools. In 2013, VCSCS published these model policies and procedures in *Threat Assessment in Virginia Public Schools: Model Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines*, which is available through DCJS.¹

This school threat assessment training curriculum was developed through DCJS to supplement the DCJS model policies, procedures and guidelines. The curriculum encompasses several learning objectives. The overall objective of this training curriculum is to help Virginia schools and districts to establish and operate school threat assessment teams effectively. Other learning objectives include facilitating discussion of the roles and responsibilities of school threat assessment teams and providing hands-on experience using the model school threat assessment procedures to investigate, assess, and manage threatening behavior in schools. Another learning objective includes familiarizing participants with the legal issues that school threat assessment teams often face, including information-sharing and confidentiality. Finally, the curriculum learning objectives include helping participants to identify what steps they need to take to implement a threat assessment capacity that fits within their individual schools and/or districts and that is effective in both preventing violence and helping persons in need.

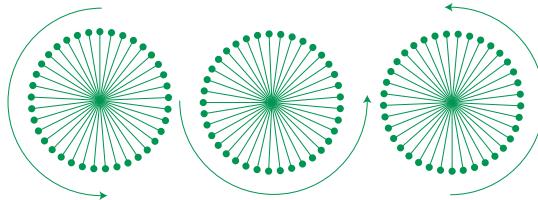
This training curriculum includes two main sections: Training Materials and Resource Materials. The Training Materials are designed for use in the day-long course. The Resource Materials are designed as reference guides and for further reading at the conclusion of the training. The content of the training parallels the order of information presented in *Threat Assessment in Virginia Public Schools*, so training participants are also encouraged to refer to *Threat Assessment in Virginia Public Schools* for additional content on information covered.

This training curriculum was designed by Dr. Marisa Reddy Randazzo, Dr. Gene Deisinger, William Modzeleski, Jeffrey Nolan, and Tara Conway. These contributors have extensive experience investigating individual threat cases and conducting original research on targeted violence and threat assessment in educational institutions. Several of the contributors previously served as researchers on the Safe School Initiative and co-developers of the U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Department of Education's model for school threat assessment, which are both referenced throughout the DCJS model policies, procedures and guidelines. More information about the curriculum contributors is available in the *About the Contributors* section of this curriculum. More information on the expertise and research behind the DCJS model policies, procedures and guidelines is available in *Threat Assessment in Virginia Public Schools*. Additional books and articles about school threat assessment and related topics are listed in the *Further Reading* section herein.

As a final note, participants are encouraged to use their training experience to broaden their network of professional contacts in the area of threat assessment. The colleagues you meet at a training session could be very helpful in handling a particular threat at a later date. Threat assessment is a field that benefits from connectivity with peers and subject matter experts. We encourage you to use your time in the training and afterward to introduce yourself and trade contact information, in the event you could be of assistance to a colleague in the future.


¹ Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (2013). *Threat Assessment in Virginia Public Schools: Model Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines*. Richmond, VA: Author. Available online at www.dcms.virginia.gov/sites/dcms.virginia.gov/files/publications/law-enforcement/_0.pdf

TRAINING MATERIALS



Training Slides




School Threat Assessment Training:
Using DCJS Model Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines



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Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

Gene Deisinger, Ph.D.

- Deisinger Consulting, LLC
 - President & Founder
- Education, Training & Certifications:
 - Ph.D., Counseling/Clinical Psychology
 - Licensed Psychologist (IA)
 - Certified Health Service Provider in Psychology (IA)
 - Certified Law Enforcement Officer (IA & VA: Retired)
- Experience:
 - Virginia Center for School & Campus Safety
 - Threat Management Consultant
 - Virginia State Police/Virginia Fusion Center
 - Threat Management Consultant/Member of Advisory Board
 - Virginia Tech (Retired)
 - Deputy Chief of Police and
 - Director, Threat Management Services
 - Iowa State University (Retired)
 - Deputy Chief of Police & Director, Threat Management
 - Handbook for Campus Threat Assessment Teams
 - Lead Author



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Session Agenda

- Introduction and Overview
- Rationale for Threat Assessment Approach
- Developing a Threat Assessment Team
- Identifying and Reporting Threats
- How to Conduct a Threat Assessment/Assessing and Classifying Threats
- Responding to and Managing Threats:
- Legal Issues and Confidentiality
- Steps for Implementing Threat Assessment in Your School
- Enhancing School Climates
- Summary and Q&A

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Disclosure

The threat assessment policies and procedures contained herein are models that are based on a synthesis of established standards of practice and are consistent with Virginia law.

They are not intended to be proscriptive.

Although required to adopt policies for the establishment of threat assessment teams, local school boards have authority to establish any policies or procedures that are consistent with applicable laws and regulations.

Threat Assessment in Virginia Public Schools: Model Policies, Procedures and Guidelines, 2nd edition. Virginia DCJS (2016)

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Introduction and Overview

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Question:

***What is
“threat assessment & management?”***

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What is Threat Assessment?

A systematic process that is designed to:

- 1 • **IDENTIFY** situations/subjects of concern
- 2 • **INQUIRE/INVESTIGATE** & gather information
- 3 • **ASSESS** situation
- 4 • **MANAGE** the situation/mitigate risk

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Threat Assessment & Management

- Threat assessment involves asking: Is this subject on a pathway toward violence?
- Using a team can be particularly effective for gathering and evaluating information, and intervening if necessary.
- Threat assessment and management is not typically an adversarial process.
- Engagement with a subject of concern can be critical to preventing violence or harm.

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Threat Assessment & Management Process

BTAM facilitates a more objective process:

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Goal of Threat Management

The primary goal of threat management is the **health, safety & well-being** of all persons involved.

Counseling, support, confrontation, termination, arrest, prosecution, etc., are **tools** to reach that goal.

Why Are We Here?

Virginia law (§ 22.1-79.4) requires threat assessment teams for public schools:

- Each local school board shall adopt policies for the establishment of threat assessment teams
 - including the assessment of and intervention with **individuals** whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of school staff or students
 - consistent with the model policies developed by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety in accordance with § 9.1-184.
 - Such policies must include procedures for referrals to community service boards and health providers where appropriate.

Virginia CARES for Schools and Campuses

- Threat assessment and management is part of a larger, on-going approach to support and enhance school/campus safety and well-being.
- School/campus safety and well-being are sustained and enhanced through:
 - C: Caring and connection to build a positive climate;
 - A: Awareness of resources and reporting options;
 - R: Recognition of (and response to) aberrant and concerning behaviors;
 - E: Engagement with the community and with persons (within the school or campus) for whom there is concern; and
 - S: Support for each other.

Goals of the Session

- Know the requirements for Virginia school boards, superintendents, and threat assessment teams.
- Understand why violence prevention is possible and how threat assessment works.
- Learn what makes for an effective threat assessment team and program.
- Develop and practice skills to conduct threat assessments and respond to and manage threatening situations.
- Know basic legal issues, confidentiality.
- Understand the importance of school climate and strategies to enhance school climate.

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Rationale for Threat Assessment Approach

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Assumptions & Principles

- There are certain assumptions that provide rationale for the school threat assessment model.
- These assumptions come from major research on school shootings and other acts of targeted violence, as well as research on threat assessment.
- The principles that govern threat assessment are derived from decades of research and practice in assessing and managing threatening situations.

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Safe School Initiative Findings

1. Prior to the attacks, others usually knew of attacker's idea/plan.
2. Most attackers did not threaten their targets directly prior to the attack.
3. School-based attacks are rarely sudden, impulsive acts.

Source: U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Department of Education, *Final Report and Findings of the Safe School Initiative: Implications for the Prevention of Targeted School Violence in the U.S.* (2002).



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Safe School Initiative Findings

4. Most attackers had seriously concerned others in their lives prior to the attack.
5. Most attackers had significant difficulties with losses or failures. Many were suicidal.
6. There is no accurate or useful profile of a school shooter.

Source: U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Department of Education, *Final Report and Findings of the Safe School Initiative: Implications for the Prevention of Targeted School Violence in the U.S.* (2002).



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Safe School Initiative Findings

7. Many felt bullied, persecuted, or injured by others prior to the attack.
8. Most attackers had access to weapons – and has used weapons – prior to the attack.
9. In many cases, others were involved in some capacity.
10. Despite prompt law enforcement response, most incidents were stopped by means other than law enforcement intervention. Most were very brief in duration.

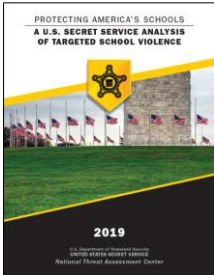
Source: U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Department of Education, *Final Report and Findings of the Safe School Initiative: Implications for the Prevention of Targeted School Violence in the U.S.* (2002).



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Protecting America's Schools: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School Violence (2019)

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Secret Service
National Threat Assessment Center



Available at:
www.secretservice.gov/data/protection/ntac/usss-analysis-of-targeted-school-violence.pdf

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Protecting America's Schools:

Key Findings

- There is no profile of a student attacker, nor is there a profile for the type of school that has been targeted
- Attackers usually had multiple motives, the most common involving a grievance with classmates
- Most attackers used firearms, and firearms were most often acquired from the home

Source: USSS NTAC 2019

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Protecting America's Schools:

Key Findings

- Most attackers had experienced psychological, behavioral, or developmental symptoms
- Half of the attackers had interests in violent topics
- All attackers experienced social stressors involving their relationships with peers and/or romantic partners
- Nearly every attacker experienced negative home life

Source: USSS NTAC 2019

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Protecting America's Schools:

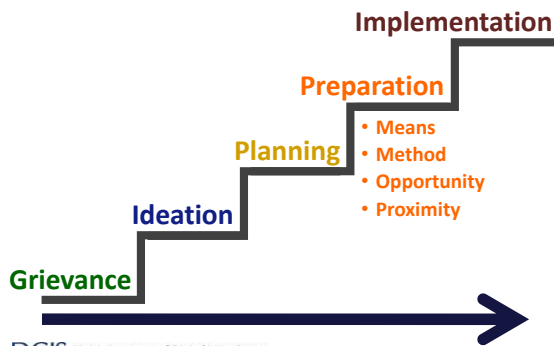
Key Findings

- Most attackers were victims of bullying, which was often observed by others
- Most attackers had a history of school disciplinary actions, and many had prior contact with law enforcement
- All attackers exhibited concerning behaviors. Most elicited concern from others, and most communicated their intent to attack

Source: USSS NTAC 2019

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Pathway to Violence

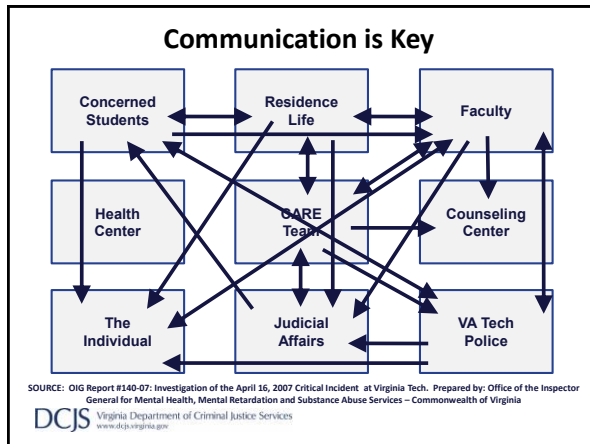


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Implications for Prevention

- Many school attacks/crime can be prevented.
- Information about a subject's ideas and plans for violence can be observed or discovered before harm can occur.
- But information available is likely to be scattered and fragmented.
- Key is to act quickly upon an initial report of concern, gather other pieces of the puzzle, then assemble to see what picture emerges.

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Guiding Principles of Threat Assessment

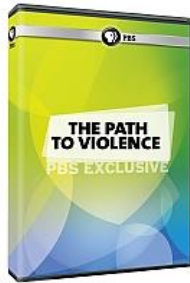
- Targeted violence is the end result of an understandable, and oftentimes discernible, process of thinking and behavior.
- Targeted violence stems from an interaction among:
 - Subject
 - Target(s)
 - Environment
 - Precipitating events.
- A skeptical, inquisitive mindset is critical to successful threat assessment.

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Guiding Principles of Threat Assessment

- Effective threat assessment is based upon facts, rather than upon characteristics or “traits.”
- The central question in a threat assessment inquiry is whether an individual **poses** a threat (i.e., is building the capability to cause harm), not just whether the person has **made** a threat (directly expressed intent to harm).
- An “integrated systems approach” should guide threat assessment & management inquiries and interventions.

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<http://video.pbs.org/video/2336803730/>

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Developing and Operating a Threat Assessment Team

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Threat Assessment Teams

Virginia law (§ 22.1-79.4) requires threat assessment teams for public schools:

- Each local school board shall adopt policies for the establishment of threat assessment teams
 - including the assessment of and intervention with **individuals** whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of school staff or students
 - consistent with the model policies developed by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety in accordance with § 9.1-184.
 - Such policies must include procedures for referrals to community service boards and health providers where appropriate.

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Threat Assessment Teams

- The superintendent of each school division shall establish a threat assessment team for each school.
- Each team shall include persons with expertise in:
 - Counseling
 - Instruction
 - School administration
 - Law enforcement
- Threat assessment teams may serve more than one school (as determined by the superintendent).

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Threat Assessment Teams

- Each threat assessment team shall:
 - Provide guidance to students, faculty, and staff on recognizing threatening /aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to the community, school, or self;
 - Identify members of the school community to whom threats should be reported;
 - Implement policies adopted by school board for threat assessment;
 - Report quantitative data on its activities according to guidance developed by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services.

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Threat Assessment Teams

- Upon a preliminary determination that a **student** poses a threat of violence or physical harm to **self or others**, the team shall:
 - Immediately report its determination to the division superintendent or designee
 - The division superintendent or designee shall immediately attempt to notify the student's parent or legal guardian.
 - Nothing in this subsection shall preclude school division personnel from acting immediately to address an imminent threat.

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Threat Assessment Teams

- Upon a preliminary determination by the threat assessment team that **an individual**:
 - poses a threat of violence to self or others **or**
 - exhibits significantly disruptive behavior **or**
 - need for assistance,
- a threat assessment team may obtain:
 - criminal history record information, as provided in §§ [19.2-389](#) and [19.2-389.1](#), and
 - health records, as provided in § [32.1-127.1:03](#).
- No member of a threat assessment team shall redisclose any criminal history record information or health information obtained pursuant to this section or otherwise use any record of an individual beyond the purpose for which such disclosure was made to the threat assessment team.

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Optional Component

District Oversight Team

- Can be existing committee
- Shall include individuals with expertise in:
 - Human resources
 - Education
 - School administration
 - Mental health, and
 - Law enforcement

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Additional Considerations

- Develop and implement operational procedures /guidelines
- Reporting procedures/mechanisms
- Threat assessment training for team members
 - Table-top exercises
- Record-keeping
- Access to legal counsel

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Additional Considerations

- Access to and familiarity with law enforcement, mental health, and support resources (school, community)
- General awareness training for staff, students, parents, etc.
- Communications with parents and community
- Community partnerships

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Identifying and Reporting Threats

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Importance of Reporting

- Reporting allows something to be done
- Earlier reporting allows greater range of options
- Everyone can play a critical role in prevention
- Role of threat assessment team is not punitive
- Goals are to maintain safety and connect person with necessary help

"If you see something, say something."

Source: NYC Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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Who Can Report?

- Require all division personnel, volunteers and contractors to report to designated administrator:
Any expression of intent to harm another person, concerning communications, or concerning behaviors that suggest a subject may intend to commit an act of violence or significantly disruptive behavior.
- Reports can also come from:
 - Students
 - Parents
 - Community members
 - Outside

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Facilitate Engagement

For effective bystander intervention & engagement, people need to know:

- It is their role and responsibility;
- What to consult about;
- Where (and with whom) to consult;
- Consultations are wanted;
- Something will be done;
- Regular reminders of issues and process.

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How to Report?

- Team must designate person(s) to whom reports can be made.
- Can include use of anonymous reporting mechanisms
- Reporting enhanced by efforts to promote awareness about team as resource and about reporting requirements
 - Periodic & on-going
 - Audience-specific
 - Multiple platforms to enhance awareness
- Certain threats require immediate notification to law enforcement

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How to Conduct a Threat Assessment

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Steps in the Threat Assessment Process

- Threat assessment team receives report of threat
- Team gathers additional relevant information
- Team analyzes information and assesses threat
- If the team decides that situation poses a threat, the team alerts superintendent, and responds to manage threat and reduce risk
- Team monitors and re-evaluates plan to ensure safety
- Team and others follow up as appropriate

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Threat Assessment Steps

Threat assessment team receives a report of a threat or threatening behavior.

- Determine if situation is emergent/imminent, e.g.,
 - Subject intends immediate serious harm to self/others
 - Indicated imminent intent to use weapon(s);
 - Display/possession of weapon(s);
 - Has access/attempting to gain access to target;
 - Attempting to breach security;
 - Lack of perceived alternatives;
 - Loss of concern for consequences

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Threat Assessment Steps

- Team gathers more information about the situation of concern. Reviews relevant records based on lawful and ethical access to information, i.e.,
 - Prior threat assessment team contacts
 - Work or school performance history
 - Disciplinary or personnel actions
 - Law enforcement or security contacts at school and in the community
 - Prior critical involvement with mental health or social services
 - Presence of known problems, grievances, or losses
 - Current or historical grievances that may be related to the behavior of concern
 - Online searches: internet, social media, email, etc.

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Threat Assessment Steps

- Team gathers more information about the situation of concern.
 - Initial interviews to verify report:
 - Person(s) reporting threat
 - Person(s) receiving report of threat
 - Recipient(s) of threat
 - Witness(es)
 - Subject who made the threat
 - Other potential sources:
 - Peers: Friends/Classmates/Co-workers
 - Employer, teachers, coaches
 - Parents
 - Local law enforcement/Community services

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Threat Assessment Steps

- Team analyzes information gathered by answering key areas of inquiry:
 - What are the subject's motive(s) and goals? What first brought him/her to someone's attention?
 - Have there been any communications suggesting ideas or intent to attack?
 - Has the subject shown any inappropriate interest in targeted attacks/attackers, weapons, incidents of mass violence?

Source: U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Department of Education, *Guide to Managing Threatening Situations and Creating Safe School Climates* (2002).

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Key Areas of Inquiry

- Has the subject engaged in attack-related behaviors or are they developing the subject have the capacity to carry out an act of targeted violence?
- Is the subject experiencing hopelessness, desperation, and/or despair?
- Does the subject have a trusting relationship with at least one responsible adult?

Source: U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Department of Education, *Guide to Managing Threatening Situations and Creating Safe School Climates* (2002).

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Key Areas of Inquiry

- Does the subject see violence as an acceptable, desirable – or the only – way to solve a problem?
- Are the subject's conversation and "story" consistent with his or her actions?
- Are other people concerned about the subject's potential for violence?
- What circumstances might affect the likelihood of violence?

Source: U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Department of Education, *Guide to Managing Threatening Situations and Creating Safe School Climates* (2002).

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Warning Behaviors

Proximal Warning Behaviors

- Pathway (actions)
- Fixation
- Identification
- Novel Aggression
- Energy Burst
- Leakage
- Directly Communicated Threat
- Last Resort Behaviors

Source: Meloy & Hoffman

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Assessing the Threat

- Make the Assessment/Evaluation
 - Does the situation pose a threat to self or others?
Is there a need for intervention?
- Consider:**
- Subject
 - Target
 - Environment
 - Precipitating Events
- Are there actions the TAT can facilitate to reduce risk, beyond that already being done?

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Tips for Discussing Assessment

- Focus on facts of specific case.
- Focus on the subject's behavior rather than the subject's traits.
- Focus on understanding of context of behavior.
- Examine progression of behavior over time.
- Corroborate critical information.

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Classifying the Threat

Low Risk: Subject/situation does not appear to pose a threat and any exhibited issues/concerns can be resolved easily.

Moderate Risk: Subject/situation does not appear to pose a threat but exhibits behaviors that indicate a continuing intent or potential for future violence; and/or exhibits other concerning behavior that requires intervention.

High Risk: Subject/situation appears to pose a threat, exhibiting behaviors that indicate a continuing intent to harm and efforts to prepare to carry out the plan; and may also exhibit other concerning behavior that require intervention.

Imminent: Subject/situation appears to pose a significant and immediate threat of serious violence toward others that requires containment and action to protect identified target(s).

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**The Final Report and Findings of the Safe School Initiative:
Implications for the Prevention of School Attacks in the
United States (2002)**

Joint Project of the:
U.S. Secret Service
U.S. Department of Education

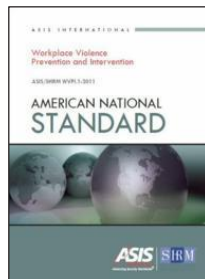


Available at:
www.secretservice.gov/data/protection/ntac/ssi_final_report.pdf

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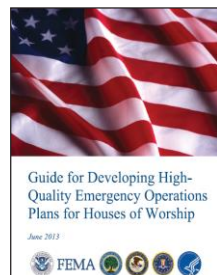
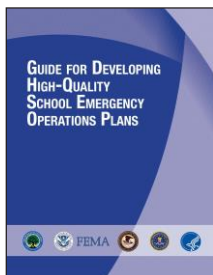
**Workplace Violence Prevention and Intervention
American National Standard (2011)**

Source:
Society for Human
Resource Management
& ASIS International



Available at:
www.asisonline.org/publications/sg-asiss-shrm-workplace-violence-prevention-and-intervention-standard/

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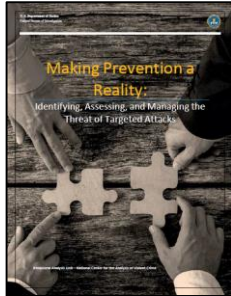


Available at: <https://rems.ed.gov/ReMSPublications.aspx>
Released: 6/18/13

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Making Prevention a Reality: Identifying, Assessing & Managing the Threat of Targeted Attacks (2017)

Source:
U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Behavioral Analysis Unit

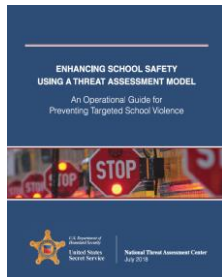


Available at:
www.fbi.gov/file-repository/making-prevention-a-reality.pdf

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Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model: An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence (2018)

U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security
U.S. Secret Service
National Threat Assessment Center

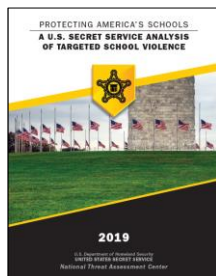


Available at:
www.secretservice.gov/data/protection/ntac/USSS_NTAC_Enhancing_School_Safety_Guide_7.11.18.pdf

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Protecting America's Schools: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School Violence (2019)

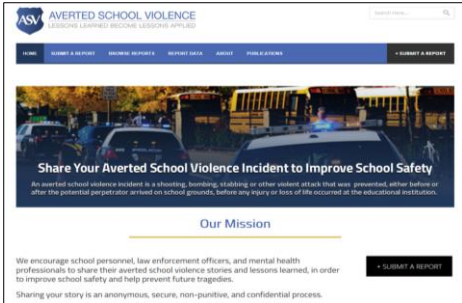
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Secret Service
National Threat Assessment Center



Available at:
www.secretservice.gov/data/protection/ntac/uss-analysis-of-targeted-school-violence.pdf

DCJS Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
www.dcj.virginia.gov

Averted School Violence Project




www.avertedschoolviolence.org

DCJS Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
www.dcps.virginia.gov

Training

2020 ATAP WINTER CONFERENCE
Jan. 28-30, 2020
Disney Yacht Club/Resort
Orlando, FL

30th Annual Threat Management Conference
August 11-14, 2020
Disneyland Hotel
Anaheim, CA



Information at:
www.atapworldwide.org

DCJS Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
www.dcps.virginia.gov

Group Exercise

DCJS Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
www.dcps.virginia.gov

Initial Report

Olivia McSweeney reportedly overheard another student (Justine Jones) talking to friends in the cafeteria. Olivia reported that she heard Justine say, *"I think it would be cool if there was a shooting at our school. Let's plan one."* Olivia said she was walking by the table and isn't entirely certain she heard the comment correctly, but it worried her, and she thought she should tell a teacher about it. The teacher then told the school principal, who notified the threat assessment team.

Initial Inquiry

General information from Justine's student file: Justine is 15 years old, a sophomore, and has maintained a 3.5 GPA since the start of her freshman year. She is not on an IEP nor does she have any academic accommodations. She is listed as living with her mother and father in a middle-income section of the suburb. She has an older brother, Timothy Jones, who is a senior at the same school. She has no disciplinary infractions listed on her student record. She has been a member of the junior varsity softball team since her freshman year. She is not listed as belonging to any student clubs or other sports teams.

Classifying the Threat

Low Risk: Subject/situation does not appear to pose a threat and any exhibited issues/concerns can be resolved easily.

Moderate Risk: Subject/situation does not appear to pose a threat but exhibits behaviors that indicate a continuing intent or potential for future violence; and/or exhibits other concerning behavior that requires intervention.

High Risk: Subject/situation appears to pose a threat, exhibiting behaviors that indicate a continuing intent to harm and efforts to prepare to carry out the plan; and may also exhibit other concerning behavior that require intervention.

Imminent: Subject/situation appears to pose a significant and immediate threat of serious violence toward others that requires containment and action to protect identified target(s).

Threat Management

Managing the Threat

4. Develop and implement relevant interventions

If the subject poses a threat of violence, the threat assessment team will develop, implement, and monitor an individualized plan to intervene and reduce the threat. The plan will help:

- De-escalate, contain, or control the **subject** who may take violent action;
- Decrease vulnerabilities of the **target**;
- Modify **environment** and systems to discourage escalation; and,
- Prepare for and mitigate against **precipitating events** that may trigger adverse reactions.

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Case Management Interventions

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Disciplinary measures | • Social skills training |
| • Outpatient counseling/mental health care | • Behavioral contract |
| • Emergency psychiatric evaluation | • Parental involvement |
| • Mentoring relationship | • Law enforcement involvement |
| • Academic accommodations | • Diversion programs |
| • Suspension/expulsion | • Check-in/Checkout |
| • Alternative schooling/home schooling | • Others? |
| • Involvement in extra-curricular activities | |

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Responding by Threat Level

Low Risk Threat:

- Disciplinary action based on school board policy.
- Parents of subject student notified.
- May be resolved with a clarification, explanation, retraction and or an apology.
- Parents of recipient(s) may be notified; if so, promptly and reassured threat is resolved.
- Referral to services may not be necessary – but if used, assign a case manager to monitor.
- If new information comes to light, team should review and re-assess.

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Responding by Threat Level

Moderate Risk Threat:

- Notify intended victim(s) and their parents
- Take precautions to protect intended victim(s)
- Take steps to monitor and supervise the subject student
- Disciplinary action according to disciplinary policy
- Notify subject student's parent(s)
- Consult with school resource officer to help with supervision, advise on need for law enforcement action
- Where appropriate, refer for counseling and/or other support services
- May require a mental health evaluation (see High Risk). Written safety plan if evaluation warrants

Responding by Threat Level

High Risk Threat:

- Notify law enforcement to contain threat and consult with School Safety and Security
- Take immediate precautions to protect potential victim(s)
- Directly supervise subject student
- Notify parents of intended victim(s) before subject student leaves school grounds
- Notify parents of subject student and enlist their support in preventing subject student from harming
- Notify superintendent or designee
- Mental health evaluation must be conducted on subject student by qualified team member or other
- Administrator/discipline officer determines conditions for re-admission
- Team develops written safety plan based on mental health evaluation and team's information

Responding by Threat Level

Imminent Threat:

- Immediately contain threat and take action to protect identified target(s)
- Immediately notify law enforcement to contain threat and consult with School Safety and Security
- Take immediate precautions to protect potential victim(s)
- Directly supervise subject student
- Notify parents of intended victim(s) before subject student leaves school grounds
- Notify parents of subject student and enlist their support in preventing subject student from harming
- Notify superintendent or designee
- Mental health evaluation must be conducted on subject student by qualified team member or other
- Team develops written safety plan based on mental health evaluation and team's information (referral for services, case manager, conditions for re-admission, scheduled follow-up with student and parents, re-assessment)

Comprehensive Case Management

- Successful management will require substantial, on-going time and effort; and may involve interventions in one or more domains:

- Subject, e.g.:
 - Control, contain, de-escalate behavior
 - Provide support/guidance for dealing with concerns
 - Referrals for assistance
- Target, e.g.:
 - Increase situational awareness
 - Take protective actions
 - Minimize contact with subject
 - Provide support for dealing with stress/fear
- Environment, e.g.:
 - Address school/climate bullying
 - Modify ineffectual practices
- Precipitating events

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www.dcps.virginia.gov

Group Exercise

DCJS Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
www.dcps.virginia.gov

Legal Issues and Confidentiality

DCJS Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
www.dcps.virginia.gov

EXERCISE: Information Sharing & FERPA

A teacher approaches you (member of TAT) very concerned about an interaction they just had with a student after a class. During that conversation the student engaged in behaviors and made statements that lead the teacher to believe that the student was a serious threat to the safety of themselves and others the campus.

Based on the information shared, you concur there appears to be a significant threat.

When you ask the name of the student, the teacher becomes very cautious and says they are not sure if they can provide that information, that they don't want to violate privacy law and be sued by the student.

What mistakes, if any, are being made?

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www.dcss.virginia.gov

Information Sharing: FERPA

- Teams should consult with legal counsel early on, as well as on specific cases as needed.
- FERPA is not an impediment to effective threat assessment and case management.
- FERPA governs records only, not observations, communications, etc.
- FERPA does not govern police records (for police/investigative purpose).
- New guidance from ED encourages information sharing where public safety is a concern.
- FERPA does not permit a private right of action.

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www.dcss.virginia.gov

Information Sharing: HIPAA

- Confidentiality is held by patient, not mental health provider.
- In cases where HIPAA/state law applies, can try these strategies:
 - No legal prohibition against **providing** information to health/MH professionals.
 - Can inquire about *Tarasoff*-type duty.
 - Can ask subject/parent for permission to disclose.

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www.dcss.virginia.gov

Reporting & Record Keeping

- Teams must report to superintendent or designee any case where **student** poses a threat
- Teams must report quantitative data on threat assessment cases.
- Teams should document assessments, safety plans, monitoring progress and re-assessments.
 - Document exact words and actions – include date, time, behaviors, witnesses
 - Document protective actions taken or offered
- Consult with legal counsel about documentation
- Can use Threat Assessment and Response Report form as model

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www.dcps.virginia.gov

Steps for Implementing Threat Assessment in Your School

DCJS Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
www.dcps.virginia.gov

Steps for Implementing Threat Assessment

- ☐ School Board adopts policy to establish threat assessment teams
 - Policy should include referral procedures
 - Can use DCJS model policy as guideline
- ☐ District Superintendent establishes a threat assessment team for each school
 - Teams can serve more than one school
- ☐ Each threat assessment team must include persons with expertise in:
 - School administration
 - Instruction
 - Counseling
 - Law enforcement
- ☐ District Superintendent may also establish an Oversight Team

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Steps for Implementing Threat Assessment

- ☐ Each threat assessment team must adopt & implement threat assessment procedures as established in school board policy.
- ☐ Each threat assessment team must identify person(s) to whom threats should be reported.
- ☐ Each threat assessment team must provide guidance on recognizing and reporting threatening/aberrant behavior.
- ☐ All school division employees, volunteers, and contractors must report threats/threatening behavior immediately to designated person(s).
- ☐ Establish ways for threat assessment team to record and report required quantitative data.

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www.dcls.virginia.gov

Optional Additional Steps

- ☐ Members of each threat assessment team should be trained in threat assessment procedures.
- ☐ Each threat assessment team can seek to establish liaison relationships with community resources.
- ☐ Each threat assessment team can help promote awareness about team within school, community.
- ☐ Oversight Teams can facilitate access of threat assessment teams to training, community resources, expert consultation, standardized procedures, other resources.

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www.dcls.virginia.gov

Enhancing School Climates

DCJS Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
www.dcls.virginia.gov

Enhancing School Climate

- Assess and enhance school climate:
 - Surveys for faculty, staff, students, parents, others
 - Data-driven enhancements
 - Student input for solutions and implementation
- Connection with all students:
 - Powerful protective factor
 - Low-cost or no-cost options

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www.dcps.virginia.gov

Summary

- Virginia law requires threat assessment teams, policy, reporting.
- Threat assessment is an established standard of practice to support school violence prevention.
- DCJS model policies, procedures, guidelines offer resource consistent with Virginia law and current standards of practice.
- Alternatives can be used – make sure are consistent with all aspects of Virginia law.
- Consult with DCJS/VCSCS, colleagues, threat assessment experts on situations of concern.

DCJS Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
www.dcps.virginia.gov

QUESTIONS?



DCJS

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

Contact Information

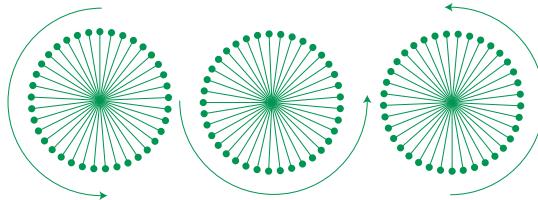
Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety
www.dcjs.virginia.gov/vcscs

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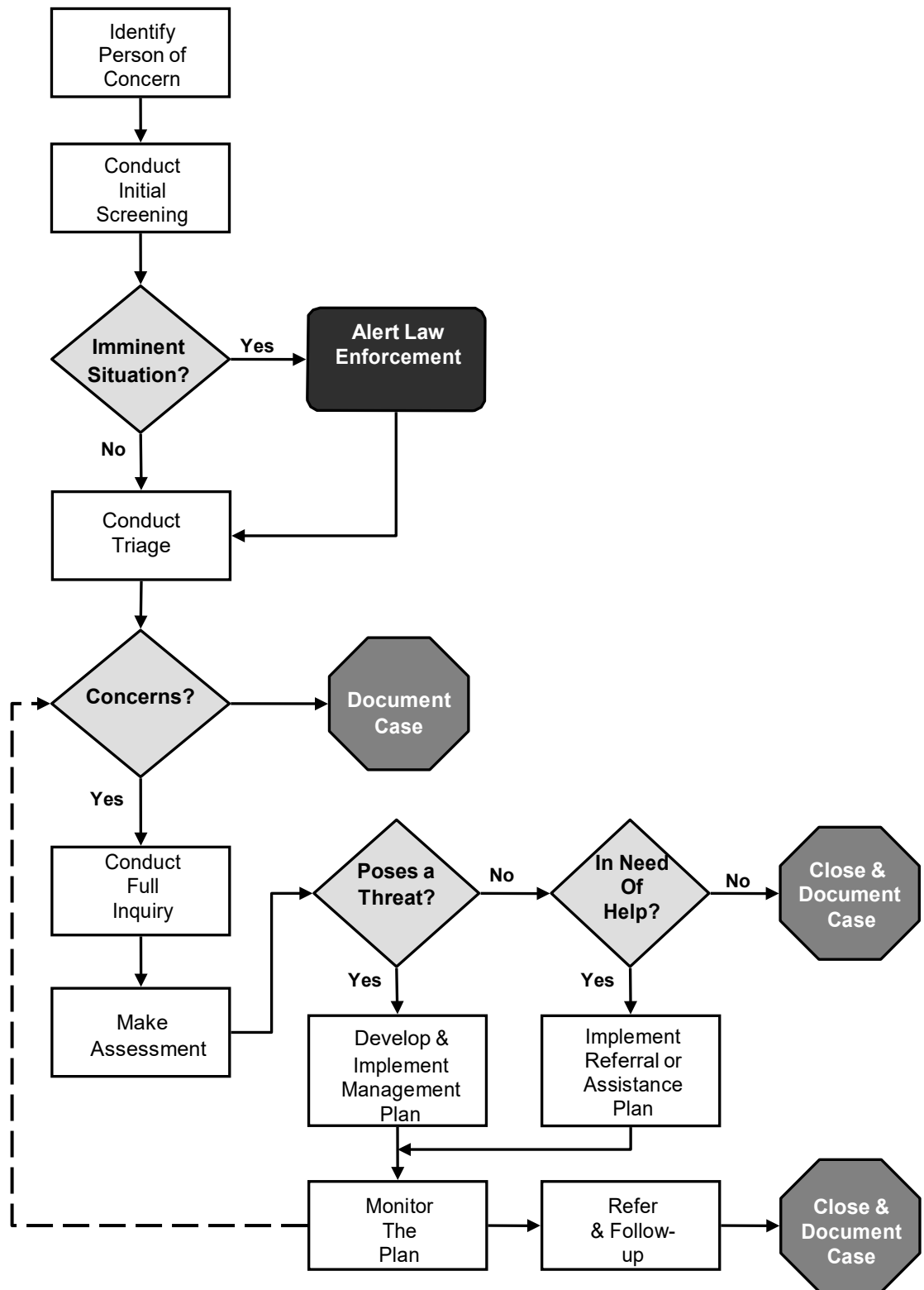
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RESOURCE MATERIALS



Threat Assessment and Management Process – Flowchart



Principles of School Threat Assessment and Management

The following principles guide school threat assessment and management. These principles were first articulated in *Threat Assessment in Schools: A Guide to Managing Threatening Situations and Creating Safe School Climates* (2002)² and further explained in *Threat Assessment in Virginia Public Schools: Model Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines* (2013)³. These principles are intended to underlie the overall work of a threat assessment team, whether operating within an individual school or at the district level.

Principle 1: Does the Person Pose a Threat?

The central question of a threat assessment is whether the person in question poses a threat, NOT whether they made a threat. A threat assessment team should take all potential threatening behaviors seriously, not just those that have been verbalized or expressed in some other way. Similarly, just because a person has expressed intent to do harm does not necessarily mean that he/she poses a legitimate threat.

Principle 2: Targeted Violence Can Often Be Prevented

Targeted violence in schools is typically the end result of a logical and potentially detectable progression of behavior. Attackers typically come up with an idea to do harm, develop a plan, acquire the means to do harm (e.g. get access to weapons), and then carry out the attack. A threat assessment team can look for information that may indicate that a person is on such a trajectory toward violence, and if so, the team then determines where it might be able to intervene to prevent harm.

Principle 3: Targeted Violence is a Function of Several Factors

Threat assessment should examine facts about the individual, the context of behavior, the environment in which the individual lives, the individual's current situation, factors that may precipitate violence or other negative behavior, and ways to make a target less accessible or vulnerable.

Principle 4: Corroboration is Critical

Being skeptical about information received and corroborating information through multiple sources are critical to successful threat assessment and management. This means that it is important to check facts where possible.

Principle 5: Threat Assessment is about Behavior, not Profiles

There is no single "type" of person who perpetrates targeted violence in schools. Instead, threat assessment is evidence-based, focusing on the specific behaviors a person has exhibited and determining whether the person poses a threat (or is at risk) based upon those behaviors.

Principle 6: Cooperating Systems are Critical Resources

Communication, collaboration, and coordination among various departments and agencies are critical throughout the process of threat assessment and management. Using different systems throughout campus as well as outside resources provides more eyes and ears on the process of both assessing and managing a potentially violent situation.

Above all, safety should be the primary goal of all threat assessment and management efforts. The threat assessment team's ultimate purpose is to ensure the safety of the school community by identifying, assessing, and managing threats. Any particular interventions — counseling, support, suspension, confrontation, termination, arrest, hospitalization, etc. — are tools to achieve the goals of safety. They are not ends unto themselves.

² Fein, Vosseskuil, Pollack, Borum, Modzeleski, & Reddy (2002). *Threat assessment in schools: A guide to managing threatening situations and creating safe school climates*. Washington, DC: U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Department of Education. Available online at www.secretservice.gov/ntac/ssi_guide.pdf

³ Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (2013). *Threat Assessment in Virginia Public Schools: Model Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines*. Richmond, VA: Author. Available online at www.dcjs.virginia.gov/sites/dcjs.virginia.gov/files/publications/law-enforcement/_0.pdf

Analysis and Evaluation Questions for School Threat Assessments

Analyze the Information Gathered

After a threat assessment team has gathered and documented for a school threat assessment, we recommend that the team use this information to answer several key analysis questions. These questions for school threat assessment were first articulated in *Threat Assessment in Schools: A Guide to Managing Threatening Situations and Creating Safe School Climates* (2002)⁴ and further cited in *Threat Assessment in Virginia Public Schools: Model Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines* (2013)⁵. These questions are designed to help organize the information gathered, as well as demonstrate where information may be missing.

What are the person's motive(s) and goals?

The purpose of this question is to understand the overall context of the behavior that first brought the person to the attention of the threat assessment team, and also to understand whether those conditions or situation still exist. If those conditions still exist, the team can use that information in crafting a management or referral/monitoring plan if necessary.

Have there been any communications suggesting ideas or intent to attack?

If the team finds that the person in question has communicated an idea or plan to do harm — and that the source of that information is credible — this is a strong indication that the person may be on a pathway toward violence and therefore poses a threat. The team should try to confirm or corroborate this information through another source, or through other information.

Has the person shown inappropriate interest in any of the following?

- School, campus, or other rampage attacks or attackers;
- Weapons (including recent acquisition of any relevant weapon);
- Incidents of mass violence (terrorism, workplace violence, mass murderers);
- Obsessive pursuit, stalking or monitoring others.

A “yes” to this question alone does not necessarily indicate that the person in question poses a threat or is otherwise in need of some assistance. Many people are interested in these topics but never pose any threat. However, if a person shows some fascination or fixation on any of these topics and has raised concern in another way, such as by expressing an idea to do harm to others or to himself/herself, recently purchasing a weapon, or showing helplessness or despair, the combination of these facts should increase the team's concern about the person in question.

Has the person engaged in attack-related behaviors (i.e., any behavior that moves an idea of harm forward toward actual harm)?

If the team determines that the person has engaged in any attack-related behavior, this is an indication that the person is on a pathway toward violence and has taken a step(s) forward toward carrying out an idea to do harm. Any of these behaviors should prompt the team to try to corroborate or confirm these behaviors through other sources (or confirm the reliability of the source reporting these behaviors). Any attack-related behaviors should be seen as a serious indication of potential violence.

⁴ Fein, Vosseskuil, Pollack, Borum, Modzeleski, & Reddy (2002). *Threat assessment in schools: A guide to managing threatening situations and creating safe school climates*. Washington, DC: U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Department of Education. Available online at www.secretservice.gov/ntac/ssi_guide.pdf

⁵ Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (2013). *Threat Assessment in Virginia Public Schools: Model Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines*. Richmond, VA: Author. Available online at www.dcps.virginia.gov/sites/dcps.virginia.gov/files/publications/law-enforcement/_0.pdf

Does the person have the capacity to carry out an act of targeted violence?

It is important for the team to recognize that in some regions, it is quite common to own weapons and to have experience using weapons from a young age. Therefore, what the team should focus on is the combination of the person owning or having access to weapons AND some indication that the person has an idea or plan to do harm. Similarly, the team should be concerned if the person develops an idea to do harm and THEN starts showing an interest in weapons. Either combination should raise the team's concern, and move the team toward determining that the person poses a threat.

Is the person experiencing hopelessness, desperation and/or despair?

If the team determines that the person in question is experiencing — or has recently experienced — desperation, hopelessness, and/or thoughts of suicide and there is NO other information indicating the person has thoughts or plans to harm other people, the team should develop a plan to refer the person to necessary mental health care or emergency psychiatric intervention, possibly involving the institution's counseling center and/or police or local law enforcement if necessary. If the team determines that the person in question is experiencing — or has recently experienced — desperation, hopelessness, and/or thoughts of suicide and there IS information that the person also has thoughts or plans to harm other people, the team should determine that the person poses a threat and move to develop and implement a management plan to intervene with the person. The management plan should include resources to evaluate and treat the person's desperation and/or suicidal thoughts/plans.

Does the person have a trusting relationship with at least one responsible person (e.g., a parent, teacher, coach, advisor, etc.)?

If the team decides that the person in question poses a threat of harm, the team can solicit the help of this responsible person. The responsible person can also be encouraged to take a more active role in discouraging the person from engaging in any harm — whether to himself/herself, others, or both.

Does the person see violence as an acceptable, desirable, or only way to solve problems?

A "yes" to this question should increase the team's concern about the person in question. But it should also lead the team to consider what options they may have for helping the person solve their problems or improve their situation so that the person no longer looks toward violence to solve the problem.

Is the person's conversation and "story" consistent with his or her actions?

If the team decides to interview the person of concern, the interview can be used as an opportunity to determine how forthcoming or truthful the person is being with the team. The less forthcoming the person is, the more work the team may have to do to develop an alliance if a management plan is needed.

Are other people concerned about the person's potential for violence?

As people are often reluctant to see violence as a possibility, if the team learns that someone in the person's life does think the person is capable of violence, this should raise the team's concern considerably. However, the team should recognize that those in close relationships with the person may be too close to the person/situation to admit violence is possible or even likely.

What circumstances might affect the likelihood of violence?

All of us are capable of violence under the right (or wrong) circumstances. By asking this question, the team can identify what factors in the person's life might change in the near-to mid-term, and whether those changes could make things better or worse for the person in question. If things look like they might improve for the person, the team could monitor the person and situation for a while and re-assess after some time has passed. If things look like they might deteriorate, the team can develop a management plan (if they believe the person poses a threat of harm or self-harm) or a referral plan (if the person does not pose a threat but appears in need of help) to help counteract the downturn in the person's circumstances.

Make the Assessment

Once the team has answered the above questions (recognizing that a team may not be able to obtain information regarding all of the questions) and documented its answers, it then assesses the threat posed by the individual by answering the following two ultimate assessment questions:

A. Does the person pose a threat of harm, whether to him/herself, to others, or both? That is, does the person's behavior suggest that he or she is on a pathway toward harm?

If the answer is "no," the team documents its response and reasoning and proceeds to Question B. If the answer is "yes," the team documents its response and rationale, and then proceeds to develop, implement, and continually monitor an individualized threat management plan to reduce the risk that the person poses. The team should document the details of this plan, as well as document steps it takes to implement the plan and/or refer the person for help. The team does not need to answer Question B.

B. If the person does not pose a threat of harm, does the person otherwise show a need for help or intervention, such as mental health care?

If the answer is "no," the team documents its response, records the person and incident in the team's incident database, and closes the inquiry. If the answer is "yes," the team documents its response and rationale, and then develops, implements, and re-evaluates a plan to monitor the person and situation and/or connect the person with resources in order to assist him/her with solving problems or addressing needs. The team should document the details of this plan, as well as document steps taken to implement the plan and/or refer the person for help.

Implementation Checklist

Steps for Implementing Threat Assessment in Virginia Public Schools:

- ☐ School Board adopts policy to establish threat assessment teams
 - Policy should include referral procedures
 - Can use DCJS model policy as guideline
- ☐ District Superintendent establishes a threat assessment team for each school
 - Teams can serve more than one school
- ☐ Each threat assessment team must include persons from:
 - School administration
 - Instruction
 - Counseling
 - Law enforcement
- ☐ District Superintendent may also choose to establish an Oversight Team
- ☐ Each threat assessment team must adopt threat assessment procedures as established in school board policy
- ☐ Each threat assessment team must identify person(s) to whom threats should be reported.
- ☐ Each threat assessment team must provide guidance on recognizing and reporting threatening /aberrant behavior.
- ☐ All school division employees, volunteers, and contractors must report threats /threatening behavior immediately to designated person(s).
- ☐ Establish ways for threat assessment team to record and report required quantitative data.

Optional Additional Steps for Implementation:

- ☐ Members of each threat assessment team should be trained in threat assessment procedures.
- ☐ Each threat assessment team can seek to establish liaison relationships with community resources.
- ☐ Each threat assessment team can help promote awareness about team within school, community.
- ☐ Oversight teams can facilitate access of threat assessment teams to training, community resources, expert consultation, standardized procedures, and additional resources.

Further Reading

Select Books and Articles on School Threat Assessment and Related Topics

Cornell, D. & Sheras, P. (2006). *Guidelines for responding to student threats of violence*. Longmont, CO: Sopris West.
Available online at www.amazon.com/Guidelines-Responding-Student-Threats-Violence/dp/1593185022

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Mohandie, K. (2000). *School violence threat management: A practical guide for educators, law enforcement, and mental health professionals*. San Diego, CA: Specialized Training Services.
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Planty, M., Truman, J. (2013) *Firearm Violence 1993-2011*. Washington, D.C. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics.
Available online at www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/fv9311.pdf

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Available online at www.secretservice.gov/ntac/bystander_study.pdf

United States Department of Education (October 2007). *Balancing student privacy rights and school safety: A guide to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act for colleges and universities*. Washington, DC: Author.
Available online at www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/brochures/postsec.html

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Available online at www.studentthreatassessment.org

Vossekuil, B., Fein, R., Reddy, M., Borum, R., & Modzeleski, W. (2002). *The final report and findings of the Safe School Initiatives: Implications for the prevention of school attacks in the United States*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Secret Service.
Available online at www.secretservice.gov/ntac/ssi_final_report.pdf

Sources for Statistics on School Violence, Crime, and Safety

Select Sources for Statistics on School Violence, Crime, and Safety

CDC School Associated Violent Death Study

CDC reports that track school-associated violent deaths annually, from 1992

Available online at www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/schoolviolence/savd.html

Gun-Free Schools Act Reports

Reports that are issued annually by the U.S. Department of Education, providing information related to expulsions on students who bring firearms to school

Available online at www2.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/gfsa/index.html

Indicators of School Crime and Safety

Annual report from U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of Education that provides data on crime and violence in schools from a variety of sources

Available online (2013 Report) at www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/schoolviolence/savd.html

School Crime Supplement

A supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey that collects information on a national level related to incidents of criminal victimization of students aged 12-18

Available online at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=108>

Virginia Discipline, Crime & Violence Annual Reports

Annual reports on school discipline, crime, violence, and other school climate issues in Virginia.

Available online at www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/school_climate/index.shtml

Virginia School Safety Survey Reports

Annual reports on Virginia school safety audits, prepared by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

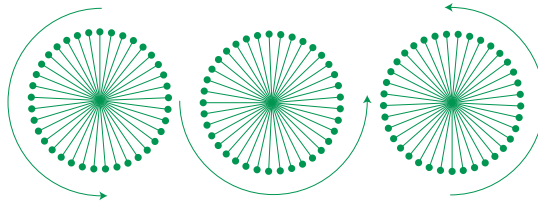
Available online at www.dcjs.virginia.gov/virginia-center-school-and-campus-safety/publications-links

Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)

Provides survey data on a variety of issues including fighting in school and gun possession in and out of schools

Available online at www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/yrbs/pdf/us_overviews_yrbs.pdf

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS



The following biographies are of the team members who developed this training curriculum. All are nationally-recognized subject matter experts within the field of behavioral threat assessment, school safety, and school violence prevention.

Marisa Reddy Randazzo, Ph.D

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Dr. Marisa Randazzo is a national expert on threat assessment and targeted violence. Formerly the Chief Research Psychologist for the U.S. Secret Service, Dr. Randazzo has provided threat assessment training to thousands of professionals in higher education, secondary schools, corporations, law enforcement agencies, human resources, mental health, and the intelligence community in the United States, Canada, and the European Union. In her ten years with the Secret Service, she reviewed hundreds of threat investigations and supervised the agency's research on assassinations, presidential threats, insider threats, school shootings, security breaches, and stalking incidents. She also served as Co-Director of the Safe School Initiative, the largest federal study of school shootings in the United States, and is co-author of the U.S. Secret Service/U.S. Department of Education model of threat assessment for educational institutions. Dr. Randazzo is co-author of *Threat Assessment in Schools: A Guide to Managing Threatening Situations and Creating Safe School Climates* (2002), *The Handbook for Campus Threat Assessment and Management Teams* (2008), and *Implementing Behavioral Threat Assessment on Campus: A Virginia Tech Demonstration Project* (2009). Her research is used in the federal, state, and local law enforcement communities and has been credited in the media with preventing planned attacks. Dr. Randazzo has testified before Congress, briefed White House staff and Cabinet Secretaries and has been interviewed by major television, radio, and print news outlets, including *60 Minutes*, *Good Morning America*, *Nightline*, *the Today Show*, *the Early Show*, *48 Hours*, *Dateline NBC*, *MSNBC*, *the New York Times*, and *National Public Radio*. She has published numerous articles on threat assessment and violence prevention and has served on the editorial board of the *Journal of Threat Assessment*. She has also published under her maiden

name, Marisa Reddy. Dr. Randazzo received her Ph.D. and Master's degree from Princeton University in Social Psychology, and a B.A. in Psychology and Religion from Williams College. Dr. Randazzo was awarded the Williams College Bicentennial Medal for her work in preventing violence. She is listed in several *Who's Who* publications for her threat assessment research and training contributions. In 2013, she was named as an expert to the American Psychological Association's Expert Panel on Preventing Gun Violence.

Gene Deisinger, Ph.D.

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Dr. Gene Deisinger is a nationally recognized expert on threat assessment and management. He currently serves as Deputy Chief of Police and Director of Threat Management Services for Virginia Tech. Dr. Deisinger earned his doctorate in counseling psychology from Iowa State University. He brings a unique perspective as a licensed psychologist, a certified health service provider in psychology, and a certified law enforcement officer. Dr. Deisinger was a founding member of the Iowa State University Critical Incident Response Team. This multi-disciplinary team served as a pro-active planning group and coordinated institutional responses during crisis situations, including situations involving threats of violence. Dr. Deisinger developed the threat management program and served as the primary threat manager for Iowa State University from the team's inception in 1994, until accepting his current position at Virginia Tech in August, 2009. He has personally managed and supervised threat cases and protective details for a broad range of governmental dignitaries, public figures, and members of the university community. For over 18 years, Dr. Deisinger has provided consultation and training to schools, colleges and universities, governmental agencies, and

corporations, assisting them in developing, implementing, and refining their threat management services. He has provided consultation on a broad range of cases, helping organizations to implement integrated case management strategies. He has also been an invited presenter for numerous national and international professional organizations. In 2008, Dr. Deisinger (along with principal co-author Dr. Marisa Randazzo) published *The Handbook for Campus Threat Assessment & Management Teams*, a practical resource designed specifically for institutions of higher education. *The Handbook* has been recognized as exemplifying best practices for implementing and operating campus threat assessment and management teams. Dr. Deisinger currently serves as a subject matter expert and trainer for the Campus Threat Assessment Training initiative for institutions of higher education, a program offered through the US Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. In 2009, Dr. Deisinger was appointed as a Fellow of the US Department of Education's Higher Education Center for Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention. In 2008, Dr. Deisinger was appointed as a subject matter expert for a joint project by the US Department of Education, US Secret Service and Federal Bureau of Investigation. That project resulted in a monograph (published in April, 2010) entitled *Campus Attacks: Targeted Violence Affecting Institutions of Higher Education*. Dr. Deisinger has provided operational support and training for several local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. From 2002–2009, he served as a Special Deputy United States Marshal with the Joint Terrorism Task Force of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation. In 2009, in response to the tragedy at Fort Hood, Dr. Deisinger was requested to assist the Department of the Army in enhancing force protection and threat management capabilities.

William “Bill” Modzeleski

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Mr. Bill Modzeleski is a nationally recognized leader in the area of school safety and emergency management. Mr. Modzeleski is a former Associate Assistant Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools. During his tenure at the Department of Education Mr. Modzeleski was instrumental in the development and implementation of several programs related to emergency management and violence prevention. These programs included: Safe Schools/Healthy Students Program (a multi-agency effort designed

to approach violence prevention from a comprehensive perspective); School Emergency Response to Violence (a program designed to bring assistance to schools immediately after a crisis that has affected teaching and learning); and the REMS program (a program designed to assist schools improve their emergency management plans). Mr. Modzeleski also played leadership role in numerous studies related to school shootings, radicalization and violent extremism. Mr. Modzeleski served as co-author with staff from U.S. Secret Service on the Safe School Initiative, and co-author with staff from Secret Service and FBI on study on Targeted Attacks at Institutions of Higher Education. Mr. Modzeleski assisted the Homeland Security Studies and Analysis Institute in the design of studies related to terrorist Incidents involving education targets, emergency management planning in international schools, recruitment and radicalization by international terrorist groups, and a review of school-aged youth involved in terrorist activities. Mr. Modzeleski was also led ED's efforts to assist schools after events disrupted teaching. These events ranged from Columbine to Virginia Tech, and from Hurricanes Rita and Katrina to the tornado in Joplin MO. Mr. Modzeleski also led team that worked closely with staff from the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) on efforts to stem the spread of the H1N1 epidemic. Mr. Modzeleski is a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Homeland Security Studies and Analysis Institute. Prior to his federal service he served in the U.S. Army serving in the U.S. and Vietnam. He holds a BA from the University of Bridgeport (where he recently was named a distinguished alum), and a MA from C.W. Post College.

Jeffrey J. Nolan, J.D.

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Mr. Jeff Nolan is a practicing attorney, and Chair of the Higher Education Practice Group at Dinse, Knapp & McAndrew, P.C. Mr. Nolan's practice focuses on representing and advising schools, institutions of higher education, and other employers. Jeff is an active member of the National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA). Mr. Nolan works with clients to develop sound risk management strategies and policies, and often speaks at client-sponsored training programs and public conferences on issues related to assessment and response planning for at-risk individuals, related privacy and disability law issues, and crisis management planning. He also served as a subject matter expert and instructor for the nationwide series of campus threat assessment training workshops

developed by Margolis, Healy & Associates and funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Community Oriented Policing (COPS Office). Mr. Nolan is listed in Chambers & Partners America's Leading Lawyers for Business in the area of Labor and Employment law, in The Best Lawyers in America in the area of Labor and Employment law, and in New England Super Lawyers in the area of Employment and Labor law.

Tara Conway

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Ms. Tara Conway is a Threat Management Consultant with SIGMA Threat Management Associates. Ms. Conway previously worked for the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) for ten years in threat assessment and protective intelligence, where she served as a senior analyst in the Intelligence Division and National Threat Assessment Center. She was responsible for the case management of subjects considered dangerous to U.S. Secret Service protectees. Additionally, she was responsible for the research, development and preparation of threat assessments on numerous protectees, visiting Heads of State, and foreign dignitaries. Within the National Threat Assessment Center, she served as a senior researcher on the *Safe School Initiative* – the joint U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Department of Education study of school shooters – and provided extensive training on the findings of the *Safe School Initiative* and on school threat assessment. Ms.

Conway also managed a national program of psychiatrists contracted by the Secret Service to consult on cases involving subjects with complex mental histories who had threatened violent action against Secret Service protectees. In this role, she served as a critical liaison between the mental health community, law enforcement agencies, and protective intelligence subjects. She is an accomplished briefer, having presented to well over 15,000 members of local, state and federal law enforcement, private sector companies, and school personnel on matters of threat assessment and other intelligence topics. She developed and presented training in support of protective intelligence investigations and provided intelligence support in the coordinating centers of major events, to include the Democratic National Convention and the World Trade Organization. She has a diverse background in threat assessment, having worked in the areas of protective intelligence, safety in schools, preventing targeted terrorist violence, and biometrics. She has extensive experience collaborating with national and international intelligence agencies, Department of Defense elements, as well as local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to analyze threats and coordinate efforts in the areas of response and prevention. Ms. Conway has also assisted various federal agencies with full-scale project management design and coordination. Ms. Conway has a B.A. in Psychology and an M.A in Psychology (thesis pending). She is trained in threat assessment and protective intelligence.

