BOARD OF EDUCATION GENEVA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #304

STUDENT SUICIDE

The Geneva School District is committed to protecting its students from the risk of suicide. Consistent with the Board of Education's Suicide Prevention Guidelines, any school professional who has reason to believe that a student is at imminent risk of suicide, based on direct or indirect communication from that student occurring within the staff member's scope of employment, shall report such communication to school counselors, principals, school nurses (RN and LPN), school psychologists, and school social workers.

In turn, the school professional identified above is responsible for documentation of the risk related to suicidal ideation. Subsequent to completing the suicide assessment checklist, the school professional is responsible for contacting at least one (1) of the student's parents or Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) as deemed appropriate consistent with the statutes and guidelines. When making this contact, the school professional shall ask the parent whether s/he is aware of the student's mental state and to make arrangements to have the child assessed.

Where the student believed to be at imminent risk of suicide has indicated that the reason for this risk relates to parental abuse or neglect, the contact will not be made with the parent. The staff member shall notify DCFS and follow mandated reporting procedures. When giving such notice to the local or State department, the staff member shall stress the need to take immediate action to protect the child from harm.

In the event that the instructional or administrative staff member believes that the risk of danger is imminent but cannot reach the school nurse, psychologist, or social worker, or at least one (1) of the student's parents or guardian, the staff member will arrange for treatment under the school crisis management plan.

The Board of Education recognizes that depression and self-destruction are problems of increasing severity among children and adolescents. A student who suffers the psychological disability of depression cannot benefit fully from the educational program of the schools, and a student who has attempted self-destruction poses a danger both to himself/herself and to other students.

All school personnel should be alert to the student who exhibits signs of unusual depression or who threatens or attempts suicide. Any such signs or the report of such signs from another student or staff member should be taken with the utmost seriousness.

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The Superintendent shall develop **and implement** administrative regulations **guidelines whereby members of the professional staff understand how to use an intervention procedure which includes the following:** to implement this policy.

Step 1 - Stabilization

Step 2 - Assessment of the Risk

Step 3 – Use of Appropriate Risk Procedure

Step 4 - Communication with Appropriate Parties

Step 5 - Follow-up

Throughout any intervention, it is essential that Board policies and District guidelines regarding confidentiality be observed at all times.

105 ILCS 5/10-22.39

105/27-23.2

Kelson v City of Springfield, 767 F2d 651 (9th Cir. 1985)

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