Handle With Care





What is Handle With Care?

- First piloted in Charleston, WV in 2013
- Bridges communication gap between schools and law enforcement so that children who are exposed to potentially traumatic events receive appropriate interventions.
- Interventions that will help give them the best chance of succeeding in school.



Goals of Handle With Care

To offer academic & socialemotional support to a student, should they present symptoms related to a traumatic event. The staff's observation may help mitigate the after effects.

To connect students with accessible mental health services and provide additional supports, if needed

How does HWC work?

1 .Law enforcement identifies children at the scene of an incident.

2. The school district is notified before school starts the next day.

3. School staff handle the student with care and respond to him or her in a trauma sensitive way.

4. If needed, student can be referred to supports including academic, wellness, etc.

Notification Process

- Incidents that would initiate a Handle with Care notice could include being a victim, or witness to the following: domestics violence, traffic accident with injuries, drug overdose, natural death, shooting, arrest of loved one, child abuse or neglect, robbery, home invasion, house fire, mental health related, search warrant, etc.
- It is important to point out that not all of these incidents are violent or involve a criminal activity. Please avoid making assumptions about why your student has received a HWC notice.

Notification Process

- The school district is notified before school starts the next day.
 - Law enforcement personal will advise, by phone or email, a simple notice to the designated individuals at student's school. The alert includes the student was involved in a police-related incident and could experience academic or behavioral challenges.
 - Designated individuals: School Principal, Classroom Teacher, School Social Worker.

Trauma Sensitive Schools

Privacy

- Law enforcement will NOT provide any details of the incident to the school per Illinois Juvenile Statute provision.
- Staff will NOT ask or probe child about details.
- This notice information should NOT leave the school.
 Confidentiality is Respectful.

What do I do after getting notice?

- BE AWARE
- A NOTICE DOES NOT MEAN ACTION IS REQUIRED

- Moniter the child to identify if support is needed:
 - Support can be: move test dates, offer breaks, naps or someone to talk to.



HANDLE WITH CARE

Process Flow Chart



A child is exposed to a traumatic event.

> If Additional Support

> > Needed

If law enforcement is called, they identify children at the scene and find out where they go to school or daycare.



LAW ENFORCEMENT

A law enforcement officer will contact the designated school personnel and provide initial information through a Handle With Care notice. No details about the nature of the event are provided; only the child's name and "Handle With Care" are given.



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If Additional

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Support Is

SCHOOL DISTRICT

The designated school personnel will then ensure notification is provided to the child's teachers and support personnel.

TEACHING STAFF & SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Provide: **Classroom Interventions Awareness** Observation and/or Support



SOCIAL WORKER



If Additional

Support

Needed

Continue with typical classroom activities



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Continue to monitor and support as needed.

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If Additional

Support Is

MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST

Provides on-site therapy with parental consent

Continue to monitor and support as needed.

