

Workshop 2 (3rd Edition, 2019)



4340 East West Highway Suite 402 Bethesda, MD 20814 301-657-0270 www.nasponline.org

## Handout 36: Intervention Strategies for Specific Crisis-Generated Problems

Crisis Problem	Intervention Strategy
Death of a loved one	<ul> <li>Provide emotional comfort, acute grief assistance, and practical assistance.</li> <li>Connect with social supports.</li> <li>For younger children, ensure that a familiar adult is attending to him/her.</li> <li>Offer a follow-up meeting.</li> </ul>
Immediate safety concerns and ongoing threat	<ul> <li>Help obtain information about safety and protection.</li> <li>Provide information obtained from officials about the incident as well as about available services.</li> <li>Report safety concerns to the appropriate authority.</li> </ul>
Separation from, or concern for, the safety of loved ones	<ul> <li>Provide practical assistance to connect people to information resources and registries to help locate and reunite loved ones.</li> </ul>
Physical illness, mental health conditions, and need for medications	<ul> <li>Provide practical assistance to obtain medical and/or psychological care and medication.</li> </ul>
Losses (home, school, neighborhood, property, pets, etc.)	<ul> <li>Provide emotional comfort.</li> <li>Provide practical assistance to help link the person with available resources.</li> <li>Provide information about positive coping and social support.</li> </ul>
Extreme feelings of guilt and/ or shame	<ul><li>Provide emotional comfort.</li><li>Provide information about coping with these distressing emotions.</li></ul>
Thoughts about causing harm to self or others	<ul> <li>Get immediate medical or mental health assistance.</li> <li>Stay with the individual until appropriate personnel arrive and assume management of his/her care.</li> </ul>
Availability of social support	<ul> <li>Help the person connect with available resources and services.</li> <li>Provide information about coping and social support.</li> <li>Offer a follow-up meeting.</li> </ul>
Prior alcohol or drug use	<ul> <li>Provide information about coping and social support.</li> <li>Link to appropriate services.</li> <li>Offer a follow-up meeting.</li> <li>For those undergoing withdrawal, seek a medical referral.</li> </ul>
Prior exposure to trauma and death of loved ones	<ul> <li>Provide information about postcrisis and grief reactions, coping, and social support.</li> <li>Offer a follow-up meeting.</li> <li>Take note of those students who report prior trauma or loss, as they may have future academic or behavioral problems.</li> </ul>
Specific youth, adult, and family concerns about developmental impact	<ul><li>Provide information on coping.</li><li>Assist with strategies for practical help.</li></ul>

*Note.* Adapted from *Psychological First Aid for Schools: Field Operations Guide* (2nd ed., pp. 44–45), by M. Brymer, M. Taylor et al., 2012, Los Angeles: NCTSN. Copyright 2012 by National Child Traumatic Stress Network and National Center for PTSD. Adapted with permission.

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