

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

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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