

# PERSONS OF CONCERN RESPONSE GUIDE

Does the person need immediate assistance?

## YES

The person's behavior is clearly reckless, dangerous or threatening, disorderly or significantly disruptive and is suggestive of imminent harm to self or others in the community.

### DIAL 911

Call 911 or  
University  
Police at  
931-372-3234

## NOT SURE

Indicators of distress are observed, but the severity is unclear. The interaction has left you feeling uneasy or concerned about the person.

Contact  
Counseling Center  
for consultation  
931-372-3331  
24/7  
or  
855-206-8997  
after hours

## NO

No concern for the person's immediate safety, but they are having emotional, personal, professional, financial issues, etc.

### Submit a Concern Report

**IF THE PERSON IS A STUDENT:**  
Submit a  
"students of concern"  
form or  
contact the  
Dean of Students

**IF THE PERSON IS AN EMPLOYEE:**  
Submit an  
"employee of concern"  
form or  
contact Human Resources

## Recognize, Respond to, Refer, and Report Concerning Student Behavior:

Tennessee Tech University Counseling  
Center RUC 307  
931-372-3331  
[www.tntech.edu/counsel](http://www.tntech.edu/counsel)

### •Trust your instincts.

If you are concerned about a student, consult your department chair to promptly report safety concerns.

### •De-escalate the situation.

Distressed students can be sensitive. Avoid threatening, potentially embarrassing, or intimidating statements.

### •Listen sensitively and carefully.

Vulnerable students need to be heard and helped. They may find it difficult to articulate their distress. Ask directly if they have thoughts of harming themselves or others.

### •Help them get help.

Be available. Show interest and offer support. Refer the students to campus departments or offices that have the necessary expertise and personnel to help them. Use numbers from the *Need Immediate Assistance* resource section.

### •Share what you know.

Report student health and safety concerns to relevant campus offices trained to handle situations with sensitivity and care. Taking appropriate action does not violate a student's privacy.

For more information on addressing persons of concern, visit [tntech.edu/concern](http://tntech.edu/concern)

## NEED IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE?

### Contact these resources available 24/7

- 911
- University Police – 931-372-3234
- Eagle Eye Crisis Hotline - 931-372-3331 or 855-206-8997 after hours
- 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: 988
- Suicide Hotline: 800-784-2433

The TN Tech Counseling Center encourages you to add the National Suicide and Crisis Prevention Lifeline 988 number to your course syllabus for reference.

