

Crisis Intervention Protocol

FL HB 945 requires principals of public and charter schools to verify de-escalation procedures have been followed and an MRT has been contacted prior to initiating a Baker Act of a student unless the principal or their designee reasonably believes a delay will increase the likelihood of harm to the student or others.

Nothing in these procedures supersede the authority of a law enforcement officer to act under FS 394.463.

When a student is in crisis and poses a threat to self or others the following protocol should be followed to de-escalate the situation prior to involving law enforcement in making a Baker Act decision.

1. Engage school based crisis team to respond and implement de-escalation procedures. This team should include NCI trained staff and mental health staff (school counselors/social workers). In individual cases this team may include a staff member with a significant relationship with the student. If student is a risk to self a counselor or social worker should conduct a suicide risk assessment.
2. If the student remains in crisis after school staff have attempted to de-escalate, the Crisis Center MRT should be called to provide additional support. The crisis center can be reached at 264-6789. They may respond virtually or in person. Parent should be contacted and **provide verbal consent** for MRT to speak directly with the student. If we are not able to obtain consent the MRT should still be called and will consult with school staff only.

Benefits of MRT involvement:

- A 3rd party objective perspective from a mental health provider
 - May increase seriousness to parent
 - MRT can wraparound the parent to help with safety planning and support at home after school hours
 - Another resource for parents outside of school including scheduling counseling sessions
3. If after both school based de-escalation techniques have been utilized and outreach to the MRT has been initiated the student remains a risk to him/herself or others, law enforcement should be consulted to determine the appropriateness of a Baker Act.
 4. If a delay in removing the student will increase the likelihood of harm to the student or others, law enforcement should be consulted first.

Note: All Baker Acts should result in either risk assessment or threat assessment (or both) documentation being completed.

* These protocols may change based on state recommendations or requirements.

Procedures for Counselors/Social workers for Suicide Risk Assessment

- Talk with student and complete the [Suicidal Tendencies Form](#) to the best of your ability to determine risk
- Contact parent and let them know, discuss if MRT needs to be called and make appropriate referrals for ongoing counseling
- If high risk, contact the crisis center MRT
- If crisis center and counselor agree that risk is high, involve SRO to determine if Baker Act is appropriate
- Complete [Report of Suicide Risk](#) and submit to Rachel Kelley
- [Parent/Guardian Plan of Action](#) may be used to provide information to parent
- [Student safety plan](#) may be completed if risk is moderate to ensure student knows how to seek help at school
- [Student Re-entry plan](#) may be used when students return from Baker Act