

## Youth in Psychiatric Crisis at School

Depending on Assistance Needed, Call:	
Children and Adolescent Mobile Crisis Services (ChAMPS)	202-481-1450
DC Department of Mental Health 24-Hour Access Helpline (AHL)	888-793-4357
LEA Contact	
CCT Coordinator	
Other	

### Situation Description

The purpose of this children crisis protocol is to establish the procedures for collaboration between Children and Adolescent Mobile Psychiatric Services (ChAMPS), District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), DC Public Charter Schools and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of all entities.

This protocol is intended to create and foster a proactive approach to potential crises. It prepares school in a coordinated way to manage all possible impact of destabilizing occurrences. What makes this protocol especially valuable is that it can be applied and adapted to the particular culture and organizational structure of on any school in the District of Columbia.

This protocol includes procedures and resources which serve as a guide to schools as they address multiple crisis situations.

### Procedures

The referral source or person first made aware of the crisis shall:

- Notify the Mental Health Professional in the school (i.e. school Social worker, DMH SMHP clinician, School counselor etc.)
- The referral source shall notify the School Principal, School Security or MPD School Security Division
- MPD School Security Division make a report and School security document the crisis
- Principal or designee notify the child's parent

The Mental Health Staff in the school shall:

- Conducts an Assessment
- De-escalate the crisis and provide crisis intervention/treatment and develop crisis plan
- If the crisis is resolved, the child shall return to class

- The crisis plan is communicated with the teacher, school office and other involved parties.

**If the crisis requires further support not within the school's mental professional's scope or remains unresolved:**

The mental health professional shall:

- Call ChAMPS at (202) 481-1450 or DMH Access Helpline at (888)793-4357

If there are no Mental Health professionals in the School:

- Notify the Principal and School Security or MPD School Security Division
- The Principal shall notify the child's parent
- Call ChAMPS at (202) 481-1450 or DMH Access Helpline at (888)793-4357

When ChAMPS responds to a crisis, ChAMPS shall:

- Respond to the scene of the crisis within 1 hour
- Provide on scene Assessment
- Provide crisis intervention, de-escalate, and develop crisis/safety plan
- Resolve crisis and crisis/safety plan communicated with all involved parties

If a child is deemed at-risk to harm self or others ChAMPS shall:

- Write a FD-12 for emergency psychiatric evaluation (as deemed necessary)
- Accompany child/parent to Children National Medical Center (CNMC) for evaluation
- Contact MPD for transportation support
- 48 hour Follow up with parent, school and all involved parties
- Notify the existing DMH Core Service Agency or other mental provider

**Emergency Response Plan and Management Guide**

