



What To Do In An Emergency

When You Are Concerned About A Student's Safety

Because of the mentoring relationship you have with your Life Group members, you will likely be one of the first people they come to with serious issues. They may initiate the conversation, but more likely these situations will come up as you gain their trust and ask questions. These are the steps you need to follow if you are concerned about a student's safety.

There is no confidentiality when someone is a danger to themselves or others. If you are made aware that someone intends to harm themselves or someone else, you are *legally obligated* to report it.

- **It is better to overreact than underreact—Contact someone IMMEDIATELY.**
 - **Do not leave them alone.**

First, do an assessment (See “How Can I Tell If Someone Is Suicidal?” resource on the next page).

If you believe that someone is suicidal and has plans to take their life:

If they live on campus:

1. You need to let their RA know *immediately*. Try to take the student with you, but if they refuse to come, you still need to go.
2. Take them to a counselor on campus.
 - a. Counseling center: 706-507-8740
 - i. Located on the third floor of Schuster, directly across from the elevator exit.

If they do not live on campus:

1. Call the National Suicide Hotline: 1-800-273-8255
2. Calling 911 is an alternative to the hotline, but you need to call one of the two.
 - a. Be prepared to take them to the hospital or the Bradley Center.
 - i. St. Francis Emergency Room: 2122 Manchester Expressway, Columbus, GA 31904
 - ii. Bradley Center: 2000 16th Ave, Columbus, GA 31901

After you call or contact the appropriate person above, or if you are unsure of what to do:

3. Call one of the staff to let them know what's going on. It doesn't matter what time it is.
 - a. Kristin: 206-852-7385
 - b. Khumbo: 909-935-7096
 - c. Don: 703-298-9465
 - d. All of us have the “Do Not Disturb” feature on our phones between 10 PM and 7 AM, but you can call through it in an emergency by calling twice back-to-back.
4. You need to let us know, but since you were the one the person told, it will ultimately be your job to handle the situation by following the above instructions.

If someone makes a threat to harm themselves or someone else that you think is sincere:

1. If they are on campus, follow the same steps as above. ***Immediately.***
2. If they are not on campus, call 911.
3. Call one of the staff if you are unsure.

If someone is inflicting injury on themselves:

1. Tell them they need to get help, or you are going to have to talk to someone.
 - a. If they are a CSU student, take them to the counseling center.
 - b. If they are not a CSU student, we can connect them with someone.
2. Tell one of the staff ***immediately***, and we will walk you through the process of what to do next.
3. Continue meeting with them, but it is with the understanding that they need to get professional help. *You are not qualified to handle this by yourself.*

