



## SAFETY PLAN FOR YOUTH

### SUPPORTING DOCUMENT TO IDAHO PROTOCOLS FOR SCHOOL-BASED INTERVENTION

#### Instructions for those assisting someone in need of a safety plan:

The person you are concerned about can write the answers to the questions below on a small card for a backpack, pocket or purse, or print out this page (cardstock is recommended) and cut along the dotted line to give him/her the safety plan to fill out.

A similar safety plan app for smart phones is available at <https://my3app.org/>.

The steps on this safety plan are to be completed in numerical order so that the person has time to work through their thoughts. Practice all steps, including calling to ask for help. Be sure that a positive adult is monitoring suicidality, or if a high level of suicidality is indicated, a clinician must monitor. Also, be sure to remove or lock up means that may be used to attempt suicide.

Re: #5b below: One activity proven to help is to have the person text someone three times per day with something they are grateful for (or text with three items at the end of each day). They may need reminders. Research shows that listing three things we are grateful for each day for 21 days physically changes the brain and teaches us to scan our days for the positive instead of the negative.

Re: #5d below: List names and phone numbers. These contacts must be vetted. Practice calling with the person.

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#### MY SAFETY PLAN

1. Changes in thoughts, feelings, and behaviors I notice when I begin to struggle:
  
2. If I have suicidal thoughts, I can (fill in each space with 2 or more activities):
  - a. Physical activities as stress relievers such as walk, work out, ride a bike, yoga:
  
  - b. Quiet, calming activities such as take a warm bath, write out my thoughts, meditate, pet my dog/cat, listen to calming music:
  
  - c. Concentration activities such as watch a funny show, read a book, cook/bake, play a musical instrument:

3. Five things to live for:
  
4. People and places to distract me:
  
5. If doing things for myself does not help, I can interact with or reach out to others.
  - a. Share feelings, thoughts, and triggering events that cause my suicidal thoughts with a non-judgmental adult.
  
  - b. Write down, tell, or text to a trusted adult, something/someone that I am grateful for three times per day.
  
  - c. Something I can do to help someone else or a cause I'm passionate about right now:
  
6. Four friends or family members I can call or text to help me make myself feel better (names and phone numbers):
  - 1)
  - 2)
  - 3)
  - 4)
  
7. Ways I can keep safe from methods of suicide:
  
8. If the above don't help me, I will call/text **208-398-HELP (4357)** or call 211, and press 3.
  
9. If I feel that I am in danger of hurting myself or suicide, I will call 9-1-1 to be taken to the emergency room.