



Threat to Life

Suspicious Activity Reporting

Public Safety Intake Guide

A threat is an expression of intention to inflict injury or damage and is often one of the first ways a person of concern may be identified ([FBI](#)).

A Threat to Life involves a threat to life (imminent or potential), serious bodily injury or significant violent action that may include a threat to public safety, use of weapons of mass destruction, crisis calls, active shooter, threat to law enforcement, or terrorism ([FBI](#)).

The First Amendment does not protect, among other things, “true threats,” fighting words, incitement of imminent lawless action, or material support to terror groups. In a “true threat” the threatener intends to communicate a serious expression of intent to commit unlawful violence against an individual or group; he need not actually intend to carry out the threat ([FBI](#)).

The below questions should be used as a guide to solicit information from someone reporting suspicious activity and are not inclusive of all questions that should be asked.

For specific indicators and behaviors that should be reported to the Texas Suspicious Activity Reporting Network (TxSARNet) via iWatchTexas, you may also refer to the [Nationwide SAR Initiative \(NSI\) SAR Indicators and Behaviors Guide](#).

Intake Questions

Who is the Caller?

What is the caller’s contact information?

Where is the caller located?

Content

- ✓ What is the alleged threat?
- ✓ Who made the alleged threat? (Description: Personal Identifiers/Vehicle Identifiers/Clothing/Appearance)
- ✓ Who is the target of the threat?
- ✓ When will the threatened action happen?
- ✓ Where will the threatened action take place?
- ✓ What details are known about any grievance or issue identified in the threat?
- ✓ Does the person have the means to carry out the threat, such as access to weapons, etc.?

Context

- ✓ What is your relationship to the person of concern?
- ✓ How did you become aware of the threat?
- ✓ Has the person of concern made this threat before?
- ✓ Have you reported this before? If so, to whom and when?
- ✓ What is the relationship or prior contact between the person of concern and the target?
- ✓ What is the significance of any identified dates or places?

Next Steps

1. Notify

(Supervisor, LE Officer, etc.)

2. Report

(iWatchTexas.org)

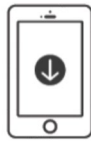
3. Follow-Up

(Add'l Assistance, Disposition)

How to Report to iWatchTexas?

iWatchTexas is not designed to report emergencies. For emergencies, please handle according to your agency protocols.

3 Ways to Submit a Tip



iWatchTexas app

Available in the app stores for iPhone and Android. Search "iWatchTexas"



Website

www.iWatchTexas.org



Phone

844-643-2251

Some information reported to law enforcement agencies may involve Constitutionally protected activity. No single indicator should be the sole basis for law enforcement action. Political or controversial speech, actions, beliefs, appearances, or way of life does not equate to suspicious activity. Such activities should not be reported absent articulable facts and circumstances that support the source agency's suspicion that the observed behavior is reasonably indicative of criminal activity.

Concerning Behavior and Potential Warning Signs*

- Statements or behaviors that seem to indicate suicidality, end of life planning, or an interest in destructiveness toward the world at large.
- Signs of research, planning, and preparation that are contextually inappropriate in the person of concern's everyday life.
- Recent acquisition of weapons, ammunition, personal protective gear, tactical clothing, or other items, which is a departure from the individual's normal patterns; recent escalation in target practice and weapons training may also be a concern if he previously owned weapons and ammunition
- Recent interest in explosive devices or acquisition of parts to construct one.
- Drastic changes in appearance such as a shaved head, a large or multiple tattoos, contextually inappropriate law enforcement or military costuming, sudden weight loss or gain, cessation of hygiene, or sudden unkempt appearance.
- Sudden withdrawal from life pattern, such as retreating to temporary quarters, absence from work without explanation, or failing to appear for appointments that are normally kept.
- Preparation of "statement" or farewell writings, to include manifestos, videos, notes, internet blogs, or emails.
- Recent or significant personal loss or humiliation, whether real or simply perceived, such as a death; breakup or divorce; or loss of a job, status, or self-image.
- Recent acts of novel or experimental aggression including trespass, animal cruelty, or vandalism.
- Any effort to physically approach an apparent target or close associates, evidence of items left for the target to find even if they appear benign (such as flowers), evidence of surveillance without approach, or attempts to breach or circumvent security measures.
- Direct or indirect communications or threats using multiple methods of delivery, such as email, facsimile, hand-delivery, text-message, etc., escalating in frequency or intensity, or which demonstrate that actual surveillance has occurred.
- Sudden change in social media behavior, including but not necessarily limited to use of encryption, decrease in postings, increase in postings, leakage, or novel use of different platforms.

* [The School Shooter – Quick Reference Guide](#) (FBI), [Making Prevention a Reality](#) (FBI)