



# Safety Status System

Applies to: Campus Programs	
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Revision History		
Version	Date	Author/Title
	February 2014	Campus Leadership Group
<b>1.0</b>	September 2014	Campus Implementation Group
<b>2.0</b>	November 2014	Toné Reyes, Training Specialist

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1. It is the policy of Casa Pacifica to provide specialized staffing when necessary to supervise and protect high-risk youth from behavior that can be destructive and/or harmful to self and others. Safety Status procedures will be implemented in specific situations where criteria is met, indicating danger to self or others and while preserving a youth's personal rights. Safety Status procedures may include the use of a physical hold per Casa Pacifica's Emergency Intervention Plan.

## 2. Rationale

- 2.1. The fundamental goal of Casa Pacifica's treatment approach is to provide a safe and therapeutic environment for both youth and staff while ensuring the youth's personal rights.

## 3. Definitions

- 3.1. Safety Watch (SW) - the highest level of supervision (1:1 staffing ratio) and is a planned response that occurs when a youth is assessed to be an imminent danger to self or others.
  - 3.1.1. Participation in on-grounds activities is permitted unless the youth's clinician and treatment team determine it is unsafe. Youth will not have pool access until they are downgraded from safety watch to a lower level of supervision
  - 3.1.2. Participation in off campus activities is prohibited except in the case of doctor's appointments or court appointments and requires a two-to-one staffing ratio.
  - 3.1.3. Staff is assigned to stay at arms-length of the youth, and carry a two way radio to maintain communication with other Casa Pacifica personnel.

- 3.1.4. The treatment team will decide whether visual, auditory proximity, or both are needed while youth conducts personal toileting and showering routine.
  - 3.1.4.1. Before toileting or showering, the assigned staff will visually check the bathroom and shower area prior to use for any potential items the youth can use to harm themselves. The assigned staff will also check all items the youth brings into to the bathroom . Staff is to be aware of the sensitive nature of their presence and keep their response as respectful as possible.
- 3.2. Safety Alert (SA): a planned response that requires staff to keep identified youth within eye and ear shot of assigned staff. This response is used when a youth's history or behaviors suggest a need for increased supervision. Behaviors included but not limited to threats of harm to self or others.
  - 3.2.1. On-campus activities are not restricted.
  - 3.2.2. Participation in off campus activities will be determined by youth's clinician and the treatment team.
- 3.3. Perimeter Response (PR): a planned response in which staff will prohibit a youth from leaving the perimeter of Casa Pacifica should there be an identified threat to the safety or well being of the youth or others.
  - 3.3.1. On campus activities are not restricted.
  - 3.3.2. Off campus activity participation will be determined by the youth's clinician and the treatment team.
- 3.4. Shadowing: an unplanned response in which staff increase supervision of a youth when they walk away from their program. This is different than the other levels of response in that the youth has not yet expressed or behaved in ways which may present threats to harm self or others.
  - 3.4.1. Staff remains alert, using verbal de-escalation skills to support the youth, and ready to use two-way radio communication for assistance.
- 3.5. Life threatening behaviors: Defined as behaviors or threatening behaviors with an intent or imminent possibility of causing serious injury or death to self and/or others. Consideration of cultural and/or religious background must be given when defining these behaviors.
  - 3.5.1. Examples of these behaviors include, but not limited to:
    - 3.5.1.1. Attempt to or hanging
    - 3.5.1.2. Attempt to get hit by moving vehicle
    - 3.5.1.3. Attempt to/or ingestion of sharp items
    - 3.5.1.4. Attempt to/or ingestion of poison(s)
    - 3.5.1.5. Drug overdose
    - 3.5.1.6. Hiding/ hoarding pills/medications
    - 3.5.1.7. Possession of weapons
    - 3.5.1.8. Physical assault to others that results in or could result in need for medical attention.

- 3.5.1.9. Ideations of self harm or suicide, attitudes, beliefs, or behaviors with intent or ability which may cause injury or death to self or others as assessed by a clinician.
- 3.5.1.10. Sexual perpetration or molestation toward another

#### **4. Implementation**

##### **4.1. Safety Watch**

- 4.1.1. Any staff may initiate a safety status. Staff initiating a safety watch, will notify the Lead Behavior Specialist and youth's clinician.
- 4.1.2. A Safety Status Assessment form will be completed by the cottage supervisor, clinician, or assistant supervisor (Shelter Cottages only).
  - 4.1.2.1. The form is to be completed within the first 72 hours by the cottage supervisor or clinician.
- 4.1.3. The staff initiating a safety watch will call the Intake Office to implement the Safety Status voice mail group. A message will be sent to the group that includes date, time, reason for the safety status, and the person placing the youth on safety watch.
- 4.1.4. Once a Safety Status message is received, the program supervisor will schedule one-to-one staffing using existing staff on assigned shift. If there is no staff on shift available, a per diem staff is to be utilized. Overtime may be utilized to cover a Safety Watch in the event the first two methods for obtaining coverage are not effective.
- 4.1.5. The staff assigned to the safety watch will document behavioral observations on the Safety Watch/Safety Alert Log every 15 minutes.
- 4.1.6. The Safety Watch Authorization Form is completed for Shelter Youth by the staff implementing the safety watch and is routed to Child and Family Services management for approval, and then filed in the youth's cottage chart.
- 4.1.7. When shift transitions occur, the assigned safety watch staff will update the incoming assigned staff on current status of youth.

##### **4.2. Safety Alert**

- 4.2.1. The implementation procedure is the same as safety watch, except no single one-to-one staff is assigned.

##### **4.3. Perimeter Response**

- 4.3.1. For youth 12 years of age and under, this response is always initiated when they attempt to leave the premises.
- 4.3.2. For youth over the age of 12 who have a history of danger to self or others, this will be implemented after consultation between the Associate Clinical Services Director, Assistant Director of Residential Services, and the Lead Behavior Specialist. The Associate Clinical Services Director will issue final approval for Perimeter Response.
- 4.3.3. The youth's treatment team will complete the Perimeter Response Assessment and distribute to Cottage Supervisor, Intake Office, Education Director, Lead Behavior Specialist, and Associate Director of Clinical Services.

4.3.4. The Intake Office will implement the Safety Status voice mail group message as stated above in 4.1.3.

4.4. Shadowing

4.4.1. Any staff member may assume responsibility for initiating this level of response and must occur without placing other youth or staff at risk.

4.4.2. Staff must radio the Lead Behavior Specialist immediately if the situation escalates and it becomes unsafe for staff or other youth.

**5. Downgrading Status.**

5.1. Safety Watch, Safety Alert and Perimeter Response - the youth's clinician, with feedback preferably from other treatment team members will assess and determine if the youth is ready to be downgraded off a Safety Status.

5.1.1. The youth's clinician will notify the Intake Office which then sends out an updated Safety Status group message.

5.1.2. All documentation is filed in youth's cottage record.

5.2. Shadowing - No formal process is required to end Shadowing.

**6. Payment Authorization for Shelter Safety Watch**

6.1. For youth residing in the Crisis Care Center/Shelter and placed on a Safety Watch, the Safety Watch Authorization Form must be completed by the person implementing the Watch.

6.1.1. The Safety Watch Authorization Form is routed to Youth and Family Services management for approval every 72 hours.

6.1.2. The Safety Watch Authorization form is returned to the staff member who then files it in the youth's file. Intake Supervisor reports hours monthly to the finance department to invoice.