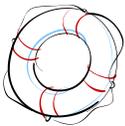




Safe Place is a national runaway prevention, education, and outreach program providing help and safety to youth in crisis. The Safe Place sign serves as a universally recognized symbol of help and safety for kids. Nationally, Safe Place serves thousands and thousands of young people each year in 1600 locations educating them about the value of asking for help. Safe Place is a community initiative that tackles the serious issues confronting today's youth.

History

Safe Place began in 1983 in Louisville, Kentucky. Working with the YMCA Shelter House Safe Place became a refuge where teens could receive emergency shelter and counseling. Fire stations were the first Safe Place sites, soon joined by local businesses and other public locations, including public transit. Buses became mobile sites with the ability to deliver Safe Places into every neighborhood.



Everyone needs to know what to do if a young person asks for help. Our responsibility as a Safe Place site is to make sure any youth who needs help feels safe and to support their decision to get help. Each young person is unique and their problems can vary greatly.

What you should do if a young person requests help:

- Get a general idea of what is wrong. Ask the youth if they came to your campus because it is a "Safe Place". If there is a clear indication of serious injury, physical trauma or need for urgent medical attention, or the youth indicates that they are in danger or is the victim of a crime then notify your College Public Safety Officer immediately. In the event that an officer is unavailable, call 911.
- Do not go into detail about the problem. Be supportive and tell the youth that you will contact the Safe Place agency.
- For administrative reasons, obtain the youth's name, age, date of birth, gender and if possible home address.
- Reassure the youth, make them feel comfortable and if possible offer them something drink. Show them where you want them to wait. This location should be out of the way of normal activity but allow for easy monitoring. Remember that they are here of their own free will and you may not detain or prevent them from leaving.
- Call Safe Place Agency at 602-841-5799. Tell them that you are calling from a Safe Place site and provide the following information:

1. Identify **yourself**, the **campus** that you are calling from, your exact **location** and a **phone number** where you can be reached.
2. Give the youth's name, age, date of birth and gender.
3. Allow the **Safe Place staff** member to speak with the youth.

A Safe Place staff will call you back shortly. Provide the young person with the name of the Safe Place responder that will come to your college and let them know that the person will arrive soon.



Document the following while you are waiting for the Safe Place responder to arrive.

- Your **name** and **identification** (your position title, location, etc.)
- The **youth's** name, age, date of birth, gender and home address, if available.
- Indicate the **time** that the youth arrived, the person they initially contacted if someone other than yourself and the time that you contacted the Safe Place agency.

Check on the youth regularly and be **supportive**, without prying into the specifics of their situation.



When the Safe Place staff member arrives, ask for **identification**. Do not allow the person to contact the youth until identity is confirmed. If in doubt, contact a **College Public Safety Officer** immediately and call the **Safe Place agency** and inform them that a different person is here on their behalf.

After the Safe Place responder has been verified allow them to **contact** the youth and **escort** them from the site.

Reminder

Remember that these procedures may vary from the **National Safe Place** standard procedures. For more information or clarification on your department procedures, contact your campus **Public Safety** department.



You may not have many youth asking for help at your location, but for those that do, the help you offer will certainly make a difference. Thank you for being a Safe Place partner and providing help and safety for the youth in the community surrounding your campus.