

# POSTVENTION

## What is Postvention?

Postvention is an organized immediate, short-term, and long-term response in the aftermath of a suicide to promote healing and mitigate the negative effects of exposure to suicide.

## Aspects to consider when forming postvention policy or planning...

- Create a Crisis Response Team (CRT)
  - With a CRT in place, the organization can assign team members to aspects of the postvention plan to ensure smooth and proper implementation.
- Family of Deceased
  - Ensure the organization notifies the family of the death promptly.
  - Talking to the family about what support they need and what information they would like the organization to share is a good way to respect their boundaries and develop a relationship (if not already established).
- Disseminating Proper Information
  - Make sure the information disseminated is accurate and includes appropriate details.
- Have Statements Prepared
  - Have a drafted statement to share with the organization and/or media.
- Uniform Response
  - Families and peers may wish to memorialize the person who died. It is important to have a conversation about how to appropriately memorialize the person without risking suicide contagion among others who may be at risk.
  - Keep in mind that all deaths should be addressed in the same way. Having differing approaches may reinforce stigma surrounding suicide.
- Support
  - Provide support for not only peers but also leaders within the organization.
  - Bring in external professionals appropriate for the organization.
  - Focus on how the death affects peers and leaders, and move away from graphic details.
- Anniversaries
  - Anniversaries of the death may also impact peers and leaders.

## Postvention Examples and Resources

### General

- Riverside Trauma Center [Postvention Guidelines](#)

### Grade School (K-12)

- The Yavapai County Education Service Agency [Postvention Plan](#)
- After Suicide: [A Toolkit for Schools](#)
- Youth Suicide Prevention, Revention, Intervention & [Postvention](#)
- The Wisconsin Components of School-Based Suicide Prevention, Intervention and [Postvention Model](#)

### Military

- [Veteran's Administration: Postvention as Prevention: Understanding the Impact of Suicide](#)
- [Air Force Resilience: Postvention Tools](#)

### Workplace

- [A Manager's Guide To Suicide Postvention in the Workplace](#)

### College

- [Postvention: A Guide for Response to Suicide on College Campuses](#)

### Faith Based

- Suicide Prevention Competencies for Faith Leaders: [Supporting Life Before, During, and After a Suicidal Crisis](#)

### Rural Community

- After Rural Suicide: A Guide For Coordinated [Community Postvention Response](#)

### Training

- [Postvention eLearning](#): Web-based, interactive training courses for educators
- Connect Suicide Prevention Program: [Developing a Community Suicide Postvention Plan](#)
- Connect Suicide Prevention Program: [Postvention Combination "Train-the-Trainer" and "Developing a Community Postvention Response Plan"](#)

### Video/ Podcast

- [Rocky Mountain Short Takes on Suicide Prevention: Postvention Practices for Schools](#)
- Suicide Postvention: [The Role of the School Community After a Suicide](#)
- After Rural Suicide: A Guide for Coordinated [Community Postvention Response](#)
- Uniting for Suicide [Postvention](#)
- Suicide [Postvention](#) as Suicide Prevention

### Supporting Material

- [Free Books](#) to Support Children and Teens After Suicide
- [Survivor Support](#) Documents
- Best Practices and Recommendations for [Reporting on Suicide](#)
- Preventing Suicide: [How to Start a Survivors' Group](#)
- Supporting Survivors of [Suicide Loss](#)