

MERTY response to schools

MERTY provides behavioral health crisis intervention and evaluation services to youth in Santa Cruz County, with the goal of reducing psychiatric hospitalization, while increasing access and linkage to appropriate services for youth in crisis. Additionally, MERTY assesses for safety, with the goal of maintaining youth in the least restrictive setting, while planning for safety.

1. School counselor evaluates and determines that the crisis has escalated beyond training and experience of the school counselor, student is unable to safety plan, and may require a 5585: **Call for MERTY to respond 800-952-2335**
 - a. Provide MERT clinician with information on student
 1. First and last name, DOB
 2. Presenting circumstances
 3. Has school counselor utilized the Columbia Scale to assess for SI? Provide MERT clinician with results, along with any safety concerns re DTS/DTO, along with any collateral information from family/school staff/providers
 - b. If student requires immediate medical intervention due to a suicide attempt (ingested an overdose of medication/drugs, cut to the point of uncontrolled bleeding with the likelihood of requiring suturing, unconscious, altered level of consciousness), **SKIP 1. AND CALL 911**, then call MERT.
2. Provide MERT with a contact person at the school to meet with upon arrival
3. **SCHOOL STAFF:** Call parent of student to apprise them of situation and request that they come to the school to allow for safety planning if appropriate. If safety is a concern re parents, discuss concerns with MERT clinician on the phone, **PRIOR** to MERT arrival. Provide MERT clinician with contact information for parent/guardian/support person.
4. **SCHOOL STAFF AND MERTY CLINICIAN:** Meet together prior to meeting with student. **School staff:** provide information on current crisis, as well as any pertinent information on history.

MERTY: If student would feel more comfortable with school counselor present during evaluation, invite school counselor to be present.
5. **MERTY** clinician will evaluate for 5585 criteria. If criteria is met, and safety planning not an option, **MERTY** clinician will initiate a 5585.
 - a. If safety planning is an option, **MERTY** clinician will engage in safety planning, utilizing the Stanley Brown safety planning tool. Parent/guardian/support individuals for student will be involved in safety planning.
 - b. **MERTY** will provide resource information and referrals as appropriate, ie assist with making appointment with therapist, etc.
 - c. **MERTY** will request that student/parent or guardian, and school staff sign an ROI to allow for follow up support as needed.