

Social Services Outpatient Protocol *for Assessment and Documentation of Non-Patients' Suicidality/Homicidality*

Assessment:

If during the course of treating a patient a social worker becomes involved with a parent/relative/friend of the patient who verbalizes suicidal or homicidal ideas, the social worker:

- Determines if the person needs further assessment
- If the person needs further assessment, the options are:
 - Have the person go voluntarily for further assessment
 - Section the person to an emergency service for further assessment
 - If the person is a child, elder, or disabled, evaluate the need to involve the appropriate protection agency.

Documentation:

If the person at risk is the parent/friend/relative of the patient, document in the patient's chart the issues presented and the actions taken.

- Do not open a chart for the parent/friend/relative because they are not your patient.
- Exception to documentation protocol:
 - Because the person is not your patient, the suicide/homicide documentation protocol does *not* apply to this situation. You can use the risk/safety assessment template (see *Note Template under Outpatient Suicide or Outpatient Homicide*) as a guide for your assessment. The extent of your documentation should be focused on what you did to address the person's suicidality/homicidality.