



TENNESSEE HANDLE WITH CARE

PROTECT • HEAL • THRIVE

The “Handle With Care” program enables officers to notify schools if they encounter a child at a traumatic scene, so schools and mental healthcare leaders can provide trauma-sensitive support right away.



The Problem: Childhood Trauma

- Childhood trauma, or Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), occurs when kids experience stressful events (such as witnessing domestic violence, drug use, etc.).
- 60% of U.S. children have been exposed to violence, crime, or abuse.
- These kids still have to go to class, carrying a burden of stress/trauma that can interfere with their behavior/grades in schools that aren’t even aware there’s an issue.



A Solution: Handle With Care

1. Officer encounters kids at scene, sends heads up to school.

Officers are trained to send a confidential notification to the school or school system with specific information on the student and a message to “Handle With Care.” To protect the confidentiality of the incident involving the student, nothing is shared with the school.

2. Schools prep trauma-sensitive support for kids.

A school creates a process to triage “Handle With Care” notifications. The process involves notifying the appropriate teacher or counselor to observe the student’s behavior/ learning to be prepared to provide support and resources.

3. Partner with Mental Health Community.

When school interventions are not sufficient, mental healthcare professionals can partner with schools to provide therapy at a designated time and place (with consent from parents/guardians).



How Do We Start Handle With Care?

- Step 1: Start the Conversation (Law Enforcement & School System)
- Step 2: Create a Group & Vision
- Step 3: Create Your Notification Flow
- Step 4: Implement Your Handle With Care Program (with Training)
- Step 5: Promote the Program



www.tnhandlewithcare.org

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