

**Whitecourt and Surrounding Area:**

**Violence Threat Risk  
Assessment Community Protocol**

**Fair Notice Brochure**



## The Partners

Education partners are committed to creating and maintaining school environments in which students, staff, parents and others feel safe. Northern Gateway Regional Division #10 and Living Waters Catholic School Division #42 have taken a lead role as there is a direct application to the health and safety of the school environment.

Government agency partners play an active role in a comprehensive intervention plan to support the young person. Children's Services, Alberta Health Services, Probation/Parole and RCMP personnel are key to determining the level of risk a young person may pose.

Community Agency partners provide services that are regularly included as part of the intervention plans. Town of Whitecourt, Town of Mayerthorpe, Woodlands County, and Lac Ste. Anne County support this coordinated response to any violence or threats of violence.

The Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response has completed extensive research in youth and school violence. Kevin Cameron, ECO of CCTATR, has trained partner local personnel in the use of the protocol.

## What is a Threat?

A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet, or made by gesture. Threats must be taken seriously, investigated, and responded to. In a culture of responsible reporting, students need to believe that they will be believed when they confide; their identity will be kept confidential; their information will be acted upon promptly; and their concern will be investigated thoroughly.

## Duty to Report

There is zero tolerance for not responding. Prevention of youth violence is a community responsibility and it is everybody's duty to report. Under-reaction is epidemic and a chief factor of escalation from thought to action.





## What is the main purpose of a Threat Assessment

The purpose of a Student Threat Assessment is to:

- To ensure the safety of students, staff, parents, and others;
- Ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat;
- Begin to understand the factors that contribute to the threat maker's behaviour;
- View the student as in need of intervention rather than to be disciplined;
- Be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker. It may include disciplinary action but will include appropriate supports to aid the student in developing and using positive strategies;
- Promotes the emotional and physical safety of all;
- Ensure all school and agency partners are working together with a common understanding and protocol.

## Who is on the Threat Assessment Team

Each threat assessment team is multi-agency. The team may include school staff, psychologists, police, child intervention staff, community addiction and mental health staff, hospitals, probation / parole and other professionals.

## What happens in a Student Threat Assessment?

All threat making behaviour by a student(s) shall be reported to the Principal who will activate the protocol for the initial response. Once the team has been activated, interviews may be held with students, the threat maker(s), parents and staff to determine the level of risk and develop an appropriate response to the incident. Intervention plans will be developed and shared with parents, staff, and students as required and as appropriate.

## Can I Refuse?

It is important for all parties to engage in the process. If for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process, by the threat maker or parent/guardian, the threat assessment will continue in order to ensure a safe and caring learning environment.



Northern Gateway  
Public Schools

