

# Cape Fear Center for Inquiry Threat Assessment Protocol

Threat is reported to school staff

## Step 1: Evaluate the threat.

- Obtain a specific account of the threat by interviewing the student who made threat, the recipient of threat and other witnesses.
- Write down the exact content of the threat and statements made by each party.
- Consider the circumstances in which the threat was made and the student's intentions.

## Step 2: Decide whether threat is clearly transient or substantive.

- Consider criteria for transient versus substantive threats.
- Consider student's age, credibility, and previous discipline history

Threat is clearly transient.

Threat is substantive or threat meaning not clear.

## Step 3: Respond to transient threat.

Use appropriate measures as outlined by school discipline policy (ie: reprimand, parent contact, or other disciplinary action). May also include making amends and mediation or counseling.

## Step 4: Decide whether the substantive threat is serious or very serious.

A *serious* threat might involve a threat to assault someone while a *very serious* threat involves use of a weapon or is a threat to kill, rape, or inflict severe injury.

Threat is serious.

Threat is very serious.

## Step 5: Respond to serious threat..

- Take immediate precautions to protect potential victims, including notifying intended victims and victim's parents.
- Notify student's parents
- Consider contacting law enforcement.
- Refer student for counseling, dispute mediation, or other appropriate intervention.
- Discipline students as appropriate to severity and chronicity of situation.

## Step 6: Respond to serious threat..

- Take immediate precautions to protect potential victims, including notifying the victim and victim's parents.
- Consult with law enforcement.
- Notify student's parents.
- Begin a mental health evaluation of the student.
- Discipline student as appropriate.

## Step 7: Implement Safety Plan.

- Complete a written plan
- Maintain contact with the student
- Revise plan as needed.