

If you suspect that someone is suicidal or homicidal you should:

Pay attention to language used some people are treatment savvy and will say no I don't have a plan but I would shoot myself if I had a gun. Pay attention to "I just want it all to be over" "I just want to rest and sleep forever" "If I was dead I would be pain free" etc.

Assess

1. Ask, "what would you do?" (plan)
If no plan, stop and contract for safety
If yes continue and
2. Ask, "are these things around, can you get to them easily?" (access)
If they have access ask if they will give items to others for safekeeping. (make sure this is in the contract)
3. Ask, "will you agree to ask for help/tell someone if feeling like acting on these feelings?"
If yes explain contract and have person sign safety contract give one to them to keep put one in chart, you sign as witness. Add any additional info that may be needed. I will give gun to brother. I will use coping skills in my safety plan such as...
If no then discuss options of going to hospital. (Pt will often agree to contract at this point) if still no call BHC 336 832-9600 and ask to speak to someone in assessment. Ask if they have beds and if you can bring the person directly there or if you need to go to the ER. Do not transport the client yourself. Call 911 or police to provide transportation. or if client agrees to go you can follow them in your car but have a plan if they ditch you. Take pt for assessment.
4. Call Angela and let her know what happened.

Document

1. Document date and time as well as any assessment peoples names you spoke to (time of conversation) these often go for an hr or two so document what time each stage took place.
2. Document that you offered, explained, answered questions and gave a copy of the safety contract to the person.
3. Documents the nonverbal of the person where they smiling, frowning, tense, advising eye contact, talkative, fidgeting.
4. The more specific you can be the better, use exact quotes in " " when possible.

REMEMBER this applies to self-harm, suicide, and homicide.

Plus engaging in activities that place themselves or others in serve harm also apply. Seeing things and running into traffic, drinking till I no longer know or care what I am doing ESP if has weapons or history of violence.

Criteria to be admitted to in-pt is: one must be ACTVLY wanting to kill themselves or kill others or engaging in activities that might lead to them dying or others dying. Also as a mental health professional if you feel they are lying and may try to kill themselves or others you can have them involuntary committed. By going to the magistrate at your local court house. If this is necessary **Don't let them leave** and call Angela 336 698-6723.