K-12 Case Study Report
Weapons Access

D·PREP SAFETY DIVISION

TRAINING OUTPOST

Case Details

A student presents as a seven-year-old male with a mother whose employment is unknown and a father who works as a guard at a local prison/jail. The student has one older brother and no other siblings. It is believed there are firearms in the home, and they are not secured or locked. The family lives in an area of town known for being dangerous and with frequent drug trade (mostly methamphetamine).

General behavioral concerns involve a lack of attention during classroom times and the use of profane and threatening language to other students, staff, and teachers. The school also noted attendance issues; however, these have not risen to the point of involving a truancy officer. Recent behaviors involve striking a teacher in the face and threatening other students with statements such as “I will kill you,” “I have a gun and will kill you,” and “I have a knife and will kill you.” Recently, the student brought a knife to school.

Questions to Consider

- What are some of the primary risks you see in this case?
- What type of assessment(s) would be best in this scenario (psychological, triage, violence risk, threat assessment)?
- Would you characterize the threats as transient or substantive in nature? What questions would you need to ask to help with this appraisal?
- Would this case be better understood as an affective or targeted violence motivation?
- Would you consider this case behavior as more hunting or howling?
- Using the metaphor example of “touching all the parts of the elephant,” what parts of this case should we include to gain a better context?
- What in-school supports might be useful to explore for this case?
- What other supports or organizations would you consider involving in this case?
- What additional information would be useful to have to complete an assessment and engage in risk mitigation planning?
- While you consider risk or escalation factors on one side of the see-saw, what might be some supportive, stabilizing, or protective factors on the other side?
- What general level of risk would you assign to the case (low, moderate, high)?

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