

Forms for the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines

What is the purpose of these forms?

These forms are used to conduct a threat assessment, as explained in the manual, *Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines: Intervention and Support to Prevent Violence*¹, or other training resources.

Do I use all of these forms for every threat assessment case?

No. Transient cases are documented with only a few pages (Threat Report, Interview(s), Key Observations, Threat Response), whereas only very serious substantive threats are likely to use all of the forms. In large samples, approximately 75% of cases are transient and fewer than 10% are very serious substantive threats.

Do I complete every section of each form?

No. These forms are intended as guidelines to help you consider the most likely aspects of a case, but you will use your judgment as to what is appropriate for your assessment and intervention.

Who completes the forms?

Threat assessment is a team process and can be documented by any member of the team. A transient threat might be handled by just one team member (preferably in consultation with at least one other team member), whereas a substantive threat will likely engage several team members.

Can I modify these forms?

Yes, within reasonable limits that do not significantly alter the CSTAG process. Be sure that changes are approved by your school system. Some school systems will modify the terminology (e.g., ‘safety screening’ versus “mental health assessment”) or make other adjustments. For example, some schools systems add a place to document who carries out each step of the assessment or add a form to track changes when a student receives ongoing services. Schools can use online versions of these forms, too.

If a threat is resolved, do I change the threat classification to “no threat”?

No. The threat classification reflects your initial assessment and guides your next steps, regardless of how the threat is resolved. Occasionally, the threat classification might change if you find, for example, that a transient case is more serious than you thought and should be changed to a substantive threat. The resolution of a threat should be recorded in the Case Plan section.

Should I document transient threats?

Yes. If a student later carries out a threat that was previously judged to be transient, you will want documentation to show that you made a defensible effort to assess the threat. If a student makes multiple threats, documentation will provide a useful perspective.

Where should I file these forms?

Follow the guidance of your school system to determine where you file records. Some school systems choose to file some or all of the threat assessment forms in the student’s educational record and others choose to file some or all of the forms outside of the educational record. Any information placed in the student’s educational record is subject to FERPA restrictions.

¹ The manual is available from School Threat Assessment Consultants LLC at <https://www.schoolta.com/manual> and from Amazon.com.