

September 4, 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: JULIE LESTER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: NEW RESOURCE ON SCHOOL VIOLENCE HOTLINE WEBSITE RELEASED

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform Children's Division staff of an update to the School Violence Hotline (SVH) website SchoolViolenceHotline.com which will now include significant news updates on topics of bullying and school violence. This addition was requested by our partnering agencies in order to provide a centralized educational hub for school violence resources that can be readily shared with collaborating agencies, organizations, and professionals.

As you may know, the overall goal of the School Violence Hotline program is to provide a youth-friendly means to report school violence acts and threats. The program assists in the timely sharing of critical information with school personnel and law enforcement to ultimately improve outcomes for youth and promote a safe school environment. The toll-free hotline number (1-866-748-7047) is staffed Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 6:00pm with voicemail for after-hour calls. In addition, the hotline program has expanded to allow for 24/7 online reporting on the SVH website, and the program provides users with a Text-a-Tip service by texting "Report It" to TIP411. Most recently, youth were empowered with the release of the "Report It!" mobile app that includes a photo upload feature.

Although the program was created with a focus on youth, the hotline staff accepts critical information from many parents, school staff, hospital personnel, therapists, and concerned citizens. Callers may remain anonymous alleviating some of the guesswork of "should I or shouldn't I make a report". The information is then relayed immediately to the local law enforcement agency and the local school officials who will determine how to appropriately handle the school violence incident. After approximately thirty days, the School Violence Hotline staff will contact the local authorities to ascertain the results of the report and the outcomes for the youth.

It is requested that Children's Division staff share the website resource and youth-friendly reporting applications with the children, families and partners we serve. Posters may be ordered via the SVH website to display in the local county offices.

RELAY MISSOURI
FOR HEARING AND SPEECH IMPAIRED
1-800-735-2466 VOICE • 1-800-735-2966 TEXT PHONE

An Equal Opportunity Employer, services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.