



& HANDLE WITH CARE LAW ENFORCEMENT



When to send a Handle with Care Notice:

Anytime a child is present on a call!

- Arrest of household member
- Search warrant served in residence
- Drug/alcohol overdose of family member
- Death/Suicide of family member
- Incident of domestic violence
- Physical/sexual abuse
- Community violence
- Forced displacement from residence
- House fires
- Automobile accident

HANDLE WITH CARE

Handle With Care (HWC) is a protocol designed to enhance communication between first responders and schools regarding children's exposure to trauma. Handle With Care is aimed at ensuring that school-aged children feel safe and ready to learn.

Law Enforcement Plays a Crucial Role In the HWC Program

When law enforcement arrives on the scene where children are present, the events of this call could have adverse effects on the child. In addition to mandated reporting protocols, a HWC notice can be sent immediately.

These children often come to school the day after the event, traumatized. Research shows that trauma can undermine a child's ability to learn, form relationships, and function appropriately in the classroom. The HWC notice allows school staff to be prepared with supports and strategies in place.

It's EASY to Make a Difference!

When law enforcement encounters children at the scene, collect the following information for each child:



1 CHILD'S FULL NAME

2 AGE

3 SCHOOL THEY ATTEND

Scan the QR code when writing your report and enter this information. A notice will be sent to your school district. School staff will then "handle this child with care" and provide supports to address the trauma so the child can learn.

