

**Faculty Guidelines for Violence Prevention Among Georgia  
Southwestern State University Students**

## **Red Flags**

The following red flags have been identified as warning signs that an individual is at risk for harming himself or others. Faculty and staff need to be educated about the occurrence of red flags in students and how to respond when a red flag is presented.

### **1. Violent fantasy content**

- Writings (stories, essays, compositions)
- Drawings (artwork depicting violence)
- Reading and viewing materials with violent content), and role playing acts of violence and degradation

### **2. Anger problems**

- Difficulty controlling anger, loss of temper, impulsivity
- Making threats

### **3. Fascination with weapons and accoutrements**

- Especially those designed and most often used to kill people (such as machine guns, semiautomatic pistols, snub nose revolvers, stilettos, bayonets, daggers, brass knuckles, special ammunition and explosives)

### **4. Boasting and practicing of fighting and combat proficiency**

- Military and sharpshooter training, martial arts, use of garrotes, and knife fighting

### **5. Loner**

- Isolated and socially withdrawn, misfit, prefers own company to the company of others

### **6. Suicidal ideation**

- Depressed and expresses hopelessness and despair
- Reveals suicidal preparatory behavior

### **7. Homicidal ideation**

- Expresses contempt for others
- Makes comments and /or gestures indicating violent aggression

### **8. Stalking**

- Follows, harasses, surveils, attempts to contact regardless of the victim's expressed annoyance and demands to cease and desist

### **9. Non-compliance and disciplinary problems**

- Refusal to abide by written or verbal rules

### **10. Imitation of other murderers**

- Appearance, dress, grooming, possessions like those of violent shooters in past episodes (e.g. long black trench coats)

### **11. Interest in previous shooting situations**

- Drawn toward media, books, entertainment, conversations dealing with past murders

### **12. Victim/martyr self-concept**

- Fantasy that some day he will represent oppressed and wreak vengeance on the oppressors

**13. Strangeness and aberrant behavior**

- Actions and words that cause people around him to become fearful and suspicious

**14. Paranoia**

- Belief that he is being singled out for unfair treatment and/or abuse; feeling persecuted

**15. Violence and cruelty**

- A history of using violence to solve problems (fighting, hitting, etc.), abusing animals or weaker individuals

**16. Inappropriate affect**

- Enjoying cruel behavior and/or being able to view cruelty without being disturbed

**17. Acting out**

- Expressing disproportionate anger or humor in situations not warranting it, attacking surrogate targets

**18. Police contact**

- A history of contact with police for anger, stalking, disorderly conduct; Past temporary restraining orders (or similar court orders), A jail/prison record for aggressive crimes

**19. Mental health history related to dangerousness**

- A history of referral or commitments to mental health facilities for aggressive/ destructive behavior

**20. Expressionless face/anhedonia**

- An inability to express and/or experience joy and pleasure

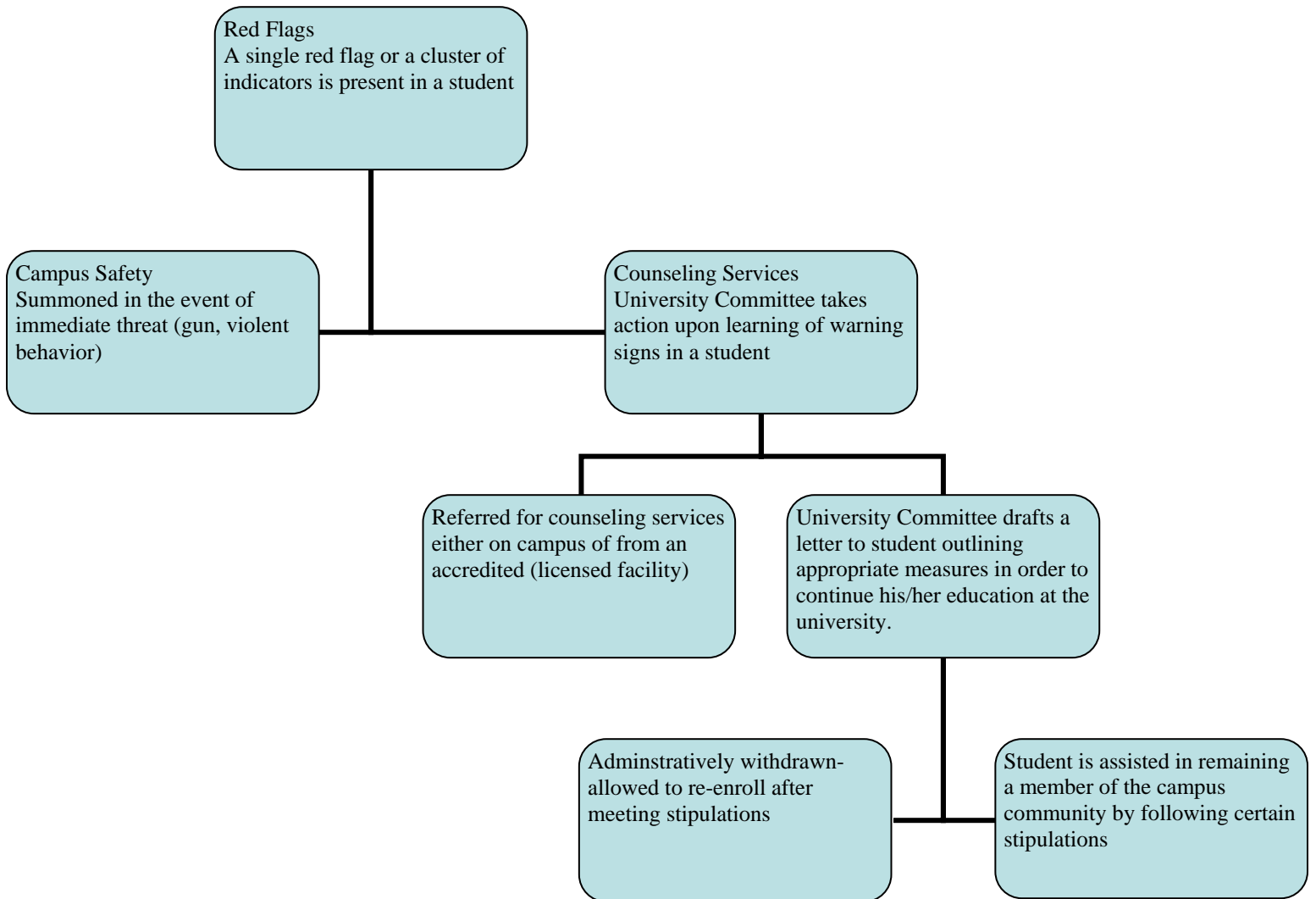
**21. Unusual interest in police, military, terrorist activities and materials**

- Vehicles resembling police cars, military vehicles, surveillance equipment, handcuffs, weapons, clothing (camouflage, ski masks, etc)

**22. Use of alcohol/drugs**

- Alcohol/drugs are used to reduce inhibitions so that aggressive behaviors are more easily expressed

## Flow Chart of Events Following Identification of One or More Red Flags in A Georgia Southwestern Student



## **Actions Taken By University Committee Upon Evaluating Red Flags**

The committee will **draft a letter** to the student notifying him/her of an appropriate course of action:

1. **Administrative withdrawal:** The letter notifies the student of his administrative withdrawal from the university. Along with this administrative withdrawal is a ban from all properties of Georgia Southwestern State University, as well as members of the campus community; this ban includes not making phone calls to any GSW facilities and/or faculty, staff, or students. Any violation of the ban will result in your arrest by any authorized Law Enforcement Agency.  
The student may be allowed to re-enroll in the university if certain stipulations are met. They may include but are not limited to
  - A comprehensive psychological evaluation completed and the summary of that evaluation is to be sent to the attention of either the Director of Health Services, or the Director of Counseling Services. These results must be sent directly from the physician's/evaluators' office with his/her signature.
  - They must complete some type of mental health program such as "Anger Management" training in a mental health facility. Documentation of completion of this training must be provided in the same manner, as stipulated above
  - A team will review the above mentioned documentation for the purpose of determining whether or not the student will be allowed to again enroll in the university.
2. **Assist the student in remaining a successful member of the campus community.** The student may be instructed to meet certain criteria including, but not limited to:
  - The student will undergo a psychological evaluation. The evaluating physician will submit a copy of the results of the evaluation to GSW's Counseling Center. The evaluation should indicate the prognosis and stability for the student to continue to successfully matriculate in academic study. The evaluation should also include the student's diagnosis, any medications they may be taking and any recommended follow-up care.
  - The student may be banned from certain areas of campus, such as residence halls for a specified period of time.
  - The student must comply with the specific medications. If they choose to self terminate the medications, this will be viewed as non-compliance.
  - The student must arrange and attend weekly meetings with the Director of the Counseling Center, until it is determined that the meetings may cease.
  - The student must comply with any follow-up procedures or practices, associated with the matter, outlined by the psychologist, psychiatrist, or primary physician within the information shared with the university counseling center.
  - The student must adhere to all of the stipulations. Violations of any of the noted conditions could result in removal of the student from GSW

The student will sign and return a copy of the letter received to the university counseling center. Once the information is received from the physician, it will be reviewed and the student will be notified of the decision regarding continued enrollment at GSW.

## **Protective Actions for a Violent Incident**

### **Immediate Action**

1. Secure the immediate area. Whether a classroom, residence hall room, office, or restroom:
  - Lock or barricade the door, if able. Block the door using whatever is available – desks, tables, file cabinets, other furniture, books, etc.
  - After securing the door, stay behind solid objects away from the door as much as possible.
  - If the assailant enters your room and leaves, lock or barricade the door behind them.
  - If safe to do so, allow others to seek refuge with you.
2. Protective Actions. Take appropriate steps to reduce your vulnerability:
  - Close blinds.
  - Block windows.
  - Turn off radios and computer monitors.
  - Silence cell phones.
  - Place signs in interior doors and windows, but remember the assailant can see these as well.
  - Place signs in exterior windows to identify your location and the location of injured persons.
  - Keep people calm and quiet.
  - After securing the room, people should be positioned out of sight and behind items that might offer additional protection – walls, desks, file cabinets, bookshelves, etc.
3. Unsecured Areas: If you find yourself in an open area, immediately seek protection:
  - Put something between you and the assailant.
  - Consider trying to escape, if you know where the assailant is and there appears to be an escape route immediately available to you.
  - If in doubt, find the safest area available and secure it the best way that you can.
4. Call 911. Emergency situations should be reported to law enforcement by dialing 911. Be prepared to provide the 911 operator with as much information as possible, such as the following:
  - What is happening.
  - Where you are located, including building name and room number.
  - Number of people at your specific location.
  - Injuries, if any, including the number of injured and types of injuries.
  - Your name and other information as requested.

5. Try to provide information in a calm clear manner so that the 911 operator quickly can relay your information to responding law enforcement and emergency personnel.
6. What to Report. Try to note as much as possible about the assailant, including:
  - Specific location and direction of the assailant.
  - Number of assailants.
  - Gender, race, and age of the assailant.
  - Language or commands used by the assailant.
  - Clothing color and style.
  - Physical features – e.g., height, weight, facial hair, glasses.
  - Types of weapons – e.g., handgun, rifle, shotgun, explosives.
  - Description of any backpack or bag.
  - Do you recognize the assailant? Do you know their name?
  - What exactly did you hear – e.g., explosions, gunshots, etc.
7. Treat the Injured. The 911 operator will notify law enforcement and other emergency service (EMS) agencies – fire and rescue. EMS will respond to the site, but will not be able to enter the area until it is secured by law enforcement. You may have to treat the injured as best you can until the area is secure. Remember basic first aid:
  - For bleeding apply pressure and elevate. Many items can be used for this purpose – e.g., clothing paper towels, feminine hygiene products, newspapers, etc.
  - Reassure those in the area that help will arrive – try to stay quiet and calm.
8. Un-securing the Area
  - The assailant may not stop until his objectives have been met or until engaged and neutralized by law enforcement.
  - Always consider the risk exposure by opening the door for any reason.
  - Attempts to rescue people only should be made if it can be done without further endangering the persons inside of a secured area.
  - Be aware that the assailant may bang on the door, yell for help, or otherwise attempt to entice you to open the door of a secured area.
  - If there is any doubt about the safety of the individuals inside the room, the area needs to remain secured.