

Your vigilance could save a life!

Frequently suicides in Tennessee occur with guns purchased or rented within that same week, usually within hours. While not all suicides are preventable, you could reduce the odds that a gun rented or sold at your range could be used in a suicide death.

Signs that a potential buyer could be suicidal

Note: None of these signs clearly indicate someone is suicidal, but if any are present (especially if more than one is present), use extra caution in deciding whether to proceed.

- Has no knowledge about guns AND no interest in learning; asks no questions
- Doesn't care which gun s/he rents or seems responsive to your questions about the purchase
- Gives unconvincing response when asked about prior shooting experience/training
- Shows no interest in firearm maintenance or safety
- Mentions recent crisis, such as a divorce, job loss, or other setback
- Makes comments that could suggest suicidality (e.g. "I don't need a lot of ammunition, I won't have the gun for long.")
- Looks anxious, avoids eye contact
- Appears distraught (shaking, fighting back tears)

Options for responding to a potentially suicidal buyer

- Notify range owner or manager (if applicable) if at all uncomfortable with a prospective rental.
- Urge customer with little firearm experience to seek training before buying.
- Ask person directly if s/he is suicidal; if the person answers yes, offer the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number (1-800-273-TALK [8255]).
- Notify nearby dealers/range owners that someone you denied a rental may go to their store/range; notify police.
- Trust your instincts—you are under no obligation to rent a gun to anyone.

What else can I do?

- Display a suicide prevention poster and Lifeline cards in your store.
- Distribute firearm safety brochures to buyers that include information about recognizing suicide warning signs and keeping firearms away from suicidal or depressed family members.
- For more information on suicide prevention in Tennessee, visit www.tspn.org.
- Spread the word! Ask other dealers you know to visit our website to request our materials.