



Andy Beshear
Governor

KENTUCKY STATE POLICE

919 Versailles Road
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
www.kentuckystatepolice.org

Kerry Harvey
Secretary

Col. Phillip Burnett, Jr.
Commissioner

As part of the School Safety & Resiliency Act and a continuous commitment to serving the communities within the Commonwealth, the Kentucky State Police implemented Handle with Care.

Handle with Care is a rapid notification system that, when used in conjunction with KRS 158.4416, can assist in schools addressing the impact of trauma on the learning environment. The use of Handle with Care and a trauma-informed team approach, schools can create a safe and successful learning environment for all children.

Handle with Care is very simple. Any law enforcement officer that has access to the KYOPs system can initiate a HWC notification. At the scene of a crime, accident, or any law enforcement assisted event; the officer will identify any children present. The officer will then use HWC to notify the school(s) that the children attend. The notice will be sent to a confidential school email and/or as a text message with only the child's name, age, school, and these three words "Handle with Care".

Example of an email notification:

Message from KY STATE POLICE, POST 17: Please handle with care. The children referenced below were on the scene of a police action in the last 24 hours and could exhibit academic, emotional, and/or behavioral problems as a result of exposure to a traumatic event.

SCHOOL NAME: Springfield Elementary

SMITH JAMES AGE 7 2ND GRADE

SMITH SALLY AGE 8 3RD GRADE

The premise of Handle with Care is to mitigate the negative effects of trauma on children. In the event, the child exhibits problematic behavior (emotional/behavioral/academic, etc.), the school has early notification of possible exposure to trauma or other stressors. The school can provide care and understanding, and link the child with trauma-informed resources such as school counselors or therapists to assist the child.

Enrolling your school in Handle with Care is simple:

1. Any public, private, or licensed childcare facility can contact the Kentucky State Police Post that serves your county;
2. Ask to speak the Victim Advocate located at the Post;
3. The Victim Advocate will then assist you to create your staff contact documentation list of those staff members that will receive the Handle with Care notification;
4. Review and update your staff contact documentation frequently.

If you have questions related to the Handle with Care program or the process for enrollment, please contact Danielle Perkins, Office of Operations, danielle.perkins@ky.gov, (502) 782-1846.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Col. Phillip Burnett, Jr." in a cursive style.

Col. Phillip Burnett, Jr.
Commissioner