Ohio Suicide Reporting Checklist

Responsible reporting on suicide has the power to save lives. How you shape a story — the details given, words used and resources provided — will minimize suicide contagion and instill hope to vulnerable individuals.

Before submitting your story on a suicide death, did you:

- ☑ Use preferred language? (e.g., "died by suicide" or "took his/her own life;" not "committed suicide")
- ☑ Use objective, non-sensationalistic language to describe the suicide death?
- ☑ Exclude details about method, location, notes or photos from the scene?
- ☑ Focus on the life of the person versus the death and method?
- ☑ Frame suicide as a preventable form of death?
- ☑ Indicate that suicide is always caused by multiple factors?
- ☑ Convey that suicidal thoughts and behaviors are not weaknesses or flaws and can be reduced with support and treatment?

(continued)

☑ Ensure all links contain reliable information?

☑ Consult a mental health or suicide prevention expert?

☑ Include a list of suicide warning signs and local resources for those in crisis?
A suggested tagline to include:
"If you're feeling suicidal, talk to somebody. Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255; the Trans Lifeline at 1-877-565-8860; or the Trevor Project at 1-866-488-7386. Text 'START' to the Crisis Text Line at 741-741, or in Ohio, text '4HOPE.' If you don't like the phone, connect to the Lifeline Crisis Chat at crisischat.org.

For more information, visit mha.ohio.gov/suicidereporting.

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