



Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office
Behavioral Sciences Unit
911 Checklist

**If your family member is in crisis and
is a danger to themselves or others,
Call 911**

*Hold this list in your hand when you call
911, so you can read from it.*

Give the dispatcher the following information:

- Address** to which the Peace Officer should respond
- Your name and phone number**
- Nature** of the crisis (*Why you need law enforcement*)
- Name** of your family member in crisis
- Age** of family member
- Height & weight** of family member
- Clothing** description of family member
- Prior or current violent behavior**
- Weapons or access to weapons**
- Current **medications** (*On or Off?*)
- Drug or alcohol use** (*current or past*)
- CURRENT location** of family member
- Triggers** (*what upsets them?*)
- State what has helped in **previous Law Enforcement contacts**
- Identify other persons in the residence** or at the location
- Diagnosis** (*Mental Health and/or Medical*)

IMPORTANT: *You are asking a stranger to come into your home to resolve a crisis. They will only have the information that you provide to them. It is a good practice to gather as much of this information as possible before a crisis occurs.*

THE Law Enforcement RESPONSE:

What to expect...

Who will respond to your crisis?

- The 911 operator will dispatch **uniformed deputies** to your location.
- Deputies will detain your family member, which **may include handcuffing** and is for the safety of everyone, including your family member.
- Officers will conduct a preliminary investigation to determine whether a crime occurred.
- Officers will conduct a preliminary mental health investigation to determine whether your family member is a *danger to self, danger to other(s), or gravely disabled* due to a mental illness (CA WIC §5150).
- Your statements and historical information are an **important part** of the mental health investigation (CA WIC §5150.05).
- Officers will inquire about any **firearms** or **other deadly weapons**, and in most cases will seize them for safe-keeping (*pursuant to CA WIC §8102*).
- Officers will notify the Crisis Intervention Team and a CIT unit (deputy & clinician) will be dispatched if available.
- If your family member is an adult, the officers and/or the CIT unit cannot disclose information about him/her due to medical records-related privacy laws.

NON-EMERGENCY

Santa Barbara County
Department of Behavioral Wellness
ACCESS – 1-888-868-1649
National Alliance on Mental Illness
NAMI 1-805-884-8440 x3206
<https://www.namisantabarbara.org/>