

We are here to help.

The assigned **School Resource Officer** for Chadron Public Schools is Officer Derek Bauer, Badge # 206.
City of Chadron Police Dept.
(308) 432-0510
125 Main St, Chadron, NE 69337

Additional Resources:

School Social Worker:
Toi Riggs
toi.riggs@chadronschools.net

School Mental Health Provider:
Dana Tewahade, M.A., L.M.H.P.,
L.P.C.
dtewahade@esu13.org

Western Community Health Resources:
1 (800) 717-1231
300 Shelton St, Chadron, NE
69337

Regional West Psychiatry & Behavioral Health Dept:
(308) 635-3888
Medical Plaza North
Two West 42nd Street, Suite
3200
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO

EMERGENCY
PROTECTIVE
CUSTODY

June 2021

A student can be placed into **Emergency Protective Custody** if it has been determined by law enforcement, such as the assigned **School Resource Officer**, that they have become a danger to themselves or others, due to an underlying mental health diagnosis, or intoxication. Nebraska State Law (statutes 71-919, 71-921, 71-922) gives law enforcement the sole authority to determine if a person will be placed into **Emergency Protective Custody**, however, the decision is a collaboration between officers, counselors, licensed mental health professionals, school staff, and parents to **prioritize the safety and wellbeing of the student above all else**. If the student is under the age of 18 years, law enforcement will notify parents and request parental consent for the student to be placed into **Emergency Protective Custody**. Nobody is in trouble, we are only here to help.

EPCs are complex situations, and the experience can vary between individuals depending on the circumstances for concern. We understand this can be a scary situation, and we are here to answer all of your questions.

Why is this necessary?

NE Statute 71-908 defines a mentally ill and dangerous person as:

A person who is mentally ill or substance dependent because of such mental illness or substance dependence, presents:

(1) A substantial risk of serious harm to another person or persons within the near future as manifested by evidence of recent violent acts or threats of violence or by placing others in reasonable fear of such harm, or;

(2) A substantial risk of serious harm to self within the near future as manifested by evidence of recent attempts at, or threats of, suicide or serious bodily harm

School counselors, administration, and **SRO** all use personal discretion & collaboration to determine if a student is a genuine danger to themselves or others: self-harm behaviors are not always cause for **EPC**

Where will my child go?

Students who are determined necessary to be placed into **Emergency Protective Custody** will be transported, by a police officer, to the nearest hospital or mental health facility, typically starting in Scottsbluff at the Regional West Medical Center, and from there going east according to availability.

What happens now?

If the risk assessment determines **EPC** to be necessary, the student remains at the hospital or facility for a 48 hour hold; a psychological evaluation must be conducted within 36 hours.

Neither the school nor the police are responsible for after-care; parents must coordinate with the mental health facility to determine the next course of action. There are **no disciplinary or legal consequences** following **EPC**, the primary concern is for the safety of the student.

Confidentiality of both the subject of **EPC** & the reporter of possible danger (if a separate party from the subject of the **EPC**) are both respected by counselors, **SRO**, & school staff. The student in **EPC** will be marked as having an "**EXCUSED ABSENCE**" from school.

A student may have multiple **EPCs**, and the process remains the same each time; any active prescriptions for mental health diagnoses & the psychological state of the student are re-evaluated.

Neither the school nor the police are responsible for any financial cost associated with any step of the process in an **EPC**.