



**WE ARE
HERE TO
HELP.**



Educational Service Unit 13
1 (308) 635-3696
4215 Avenue I
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**Your School Social
Worker**

**Your School Mental
Health Provider**

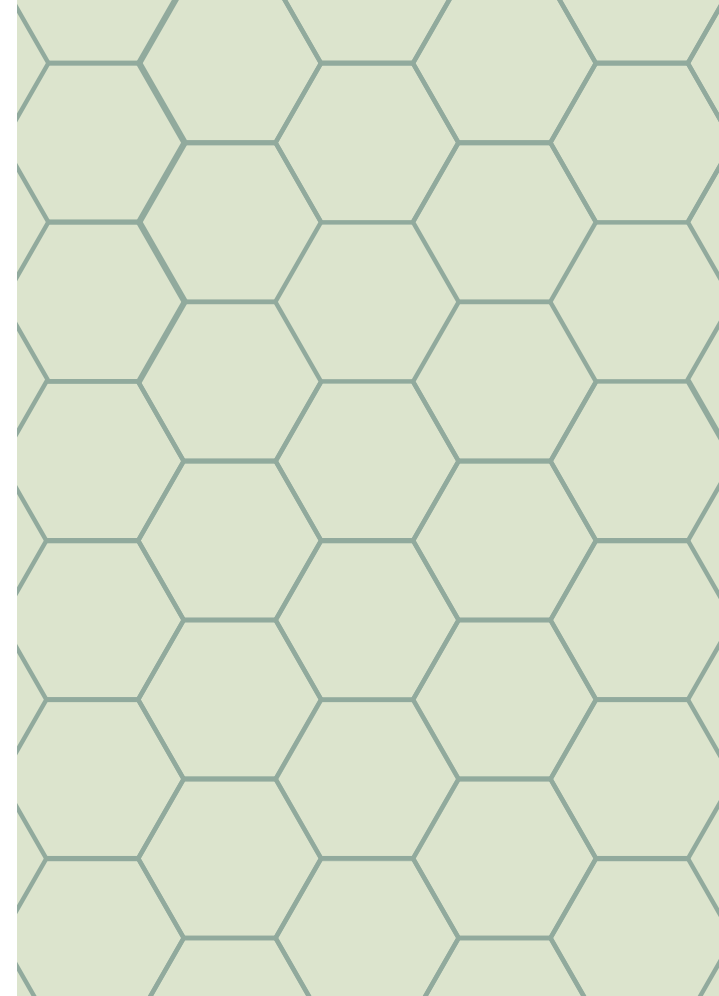
**Your School Resource
Officer**

**Western Community
Health Resources**


1 (800) 717-1231
300 Shelton St.
Chadron, NE

**Regional West
Psychiatry &
Behavioral Health
Dept.**

1 (308) 635-3888
2 West 42nd St. Suite 3200,
Scottsbluff, NE



A Parent's Guide to
**EMERGENCY
PROTECTIVE
CUSTODY**



WHAT IS EPC?

A student is placed in Emergency Protective Custody once law enforcement, such as a School Resource Officer, determines that the student has become a danger to him or herself (and others) due to an underlying mental health diagnosis or intoxication.

Nebraska State Law (statutes 71-919, 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. The safety and wellbeing of the student is prioritized above all else.

If the student is under 18 years of age, law enforcement will notify the student's parents and request consent for the student to be placed into Emergency Protective Custody.

EPCs are complex situations. An EPC experience varies 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?

According to NE Statute 71-908, a person who is mentally ill or substance dependent presents:

- (1) A substantial risk of serious harm to another person 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
- (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 School Resource Officers all use personal discretion and collaboration to determine if a student is a genuine danger to his or herself and others. Self-harm behaviors are not always the cause for EPC.

WHERE WILL MY CHILD GO?

Students who are placed in Emergency Protective Custody will be transported by a police officer to the nearest hospital or mental health facility. Typically, the starting point is in Scottsbluff at the Regional West Medical Center and moves east according to availability.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Once EPC is determined to be necessary, the student is housed in the mental health facility (or hospital) for 48 hours. A psychological evaluation will be completed during the first 36 hours of this hold.

The student's parents are responsible for coordinating with the mental health facility to arrange continued care following EPC.

Counselors, School Resource Officers, and school staff will protect the student's privacy by keeping EPC records confidential. The student 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 and the psychological state of the student are re-evaluated.

The school and police are not responsible for any financial cost associated with the EPC process.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP.

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