



# Youth & Violence

While most adults work hard to provide a safe environment for young people, there remains a daunting array of unsafe situations children may face. From cruel e-mail messages and other forms of bullying, to school-yard fights, weapons, suicide threats, underage drinking and drug use, and more, young people need to be prepared and know where to turn for help.

Research shows that kids most often know about troubling events before they occur. However, according to the Columbine Review Commission's report, young people are reluctant to report threats due to a student culture that fosters and enforces a "code of silence."

*“Every day children take guns to school, young people are threatened or assaulted, and too many kids miss school because they are afraid. Increasingly, Colorado's young people are learning that they have the power to change this. By making an anonymous call to the Safe2Tell Hotline, young people can safely pass on information to adults who can make a difference.”*

*- Susan Payne, Safe2Tell Director*

## How safe2tell Helps

### **An anonymous call makes schools and communities safer for everyone.**

The Safe2Tell Hotline gives students in all Colorado schools and communities an increased ability to both prevent and report violence by making safe, anonymous calls.

Anonymity is key. Both state law and the procedures established by Safe2Tell for receiving and forwarding tips guarantee the anonymity of every caller. The assurance that calls cannot be tracked, and that appropriate action will be taken is helping to persuade young people to move away from a code of silence and to take a stand.

Calls to the Hotline are answered around the clock at a Colorado State Patrol communication center. When action is needed, information is immediately forwarded to local school officials and law enforcement agencies.

Based in part on the Colorado Crime Stopper program, Safe2Tell was developed by The Colorado Trust as a result of safe school plans created through its Safe Communities~Safe Schools Initiative, along with the recommendation for a hotline from the Columbine Commission and the Colorado Attorney General.

Since Safe2Tell began in 2003, hundreds of callers from across Colorado have used the Hotline to report instances of bullying, threats or assaults to youth, weapons involvement, suicide threats, alcohol and substance abuse, gang activity, fights, Internet misuse and various other forms of harassment. Follow-up actions in response to Hotline calls are helping to provide young people with a safer environment.

## How safe2tell Works

- Dial the Hotline toll-free – 1.877.542.7233
- Names are not required, and there is no caller ID
- Students, teachers, parents and anyone who needs to report a concern can call
- Calls are answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at a Colorado State Patrol communication center
- Trained call takers document information and assign a code number to the call
- Instructions for follow-up are given to the caller
- Each tip is given to the proper authorities
- All viable tips are thoroughly investigated.

## safe2tell Program Support

***Schools and community organizations receive training on the Safe2Tell program to help them:***

- Learn how to address unsafe situations that are reported
- Promote awareness of the Hotline
- Encourage students and young people to use the Hotline
- Effectively display Safe2Tell posters and materials
- Remind students to use Safe2Tell after a particular event
- Investigate tips reported by the call center
- Assist law enforcement in their investigations.

safe2tell  
**1.877.542.SAFE**

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ts • gangs • stealing • suicide threats • weapons • STOP! • abuse • bullying • bullying • drugs & alcohol • fights • gan  
u don't call, who will? • Take a stand • Make a call • Make a difference • Who will know? • Only you • If you don't call

An 11-year-old girl receives help after a caller reports that she's been cutting herself and is contemplating suicide.	A sex-offender is arrested when a 14-year-old girl tells of disturbing e-mails received on MySpace.com.	A tip received reveals a gun on an elementary school bus, leading to it being confiscated.
An anonymous caller reports severe bullying of a 9-year-old girl, leading to the bully being charged and convicted of 3rd degree assault.	<b>safe2tell</b> tips are making life safer and better one student, one school, one community at a time	The report of a planned gang fight stops it from occurring and leads to school disciplinary action for those involved.
A caller tells of middle school students using drugs in the school bathroom, which also leads to the discovery of girls playing the "choking game," preventing further incidents.	Threats of a planned school attack are posted on MySpace.com, prompting a call to Safe2Tell which results in an arrest.	A report of a student being abused at home leads to a Department of Human Services intervention.

*These actual Safe2Tell calls received, and the follow-up interventions, demonstrate the types of calls being made to the Hotline by young people across Colorado.*

The Colorado Trust, a grantmaking foundation with a longstanding commitment to positive youth development and youth violence prevention efforts, has provided start-up and continuing support for Safe2Tell. Additional financial and in-kind support has been generously provided by many others, including: the Colorado Office of the Attorney General, Colorado Department of Corrections, Colorado Department of Education, Colorado Department of Public Safety and Colorado State Patrol. The Safe2Tell Hotline is endorsed by the Colorado Council of District Attorneys, The Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool, Colorado PTA and Yellow Ribbon (suicide prevention) Campaign.

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