

# Tips for Gun Dealers

Over fifty-five percent of suicide deaths by Nevada residents are completed with a firearm. While there is no guaranteed way to prevent suicides, please be aware and take action when necessary.

## Signs to watch for

*Note: These signs may indicate a person has thoughts of suicide. If one or more are present, use extra caution in deciding whether to proceed. Be aware when the customer:*

- Has no knowledge about guns nor any interest in learning; asks no questions
- Doesn't care which gun they purchase, seems unresponsive to your questions about the purchase, or asks questions about which gun is most deadly or causes the most damage
- Has no interest in firearm maintenance, instruction, or safety
- Mentions recent crisis, such as a divorce, job loss, or other significant setback
- Makes comments that could suggest suicidality, such as "I don't need a lot of ammunition, I won't have the gun for long."
- Looks anxious, avoids eye contact
- Appears distraught (shaking, fighting back tears)

## When an individual is observed to have possible thoughts of suicide

- Notify store owner or manager (if applicable) if you are uncomfortable with a prospective sale
- Urge the customer with little firearm experience to seek training before buying
- Suggest the customer take some more time to think it over before buying
- If they claim to be buying for self-defense, offer to sell pepper spray instead
- Ask person directly if they are having thoughts of suicide. If yes, connect the individual to a resource such as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-TALK [8255])
- Notify nearby dealers that you denied a sale to someone who may go to their store
- Trust your instincts; you are under no obligation to sell a gun to anyone

## What more can I do?

- Display Suicide Prevention Lifeline posters in your store
- Distribute firearm safety brochures that include information about recognizing suicide warning signs and keeping firearms away from suicidal or depressed family members
- For more information on suicide prevention in Nevada visit [www.suicideprevention.nv.gov](http://www.suicideprevention.nv.gov)
- Spread the word! Ask other dealers you know to visit our website or call our office to request materials

