

South Dakota Range Owners:

Your vigilance could save a life!

While not all suicides are preventable, you could reduce the odds that a gun rented or sold at your range is used in a suicide moments later.

Signs that a customer could be suicidal

Note: None of these signs clearly indicate someone is suicidal, but if any are present (especially if more than one is present), use extra caution in deciding whether to proceed.

- No knowledge about guns AND no interest in learning; asks no questions
- Doesn't care which gun s/he rents or seems unresponsive to your questions about the rental Gives unconvincing response when asked about prior shooting experience/training
- No interest in firearm instruction or safety
- Mentions recent crisis, such as a divorce, job loss, or other setback
- Makes comments that could suggest suicidality (e.g. "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)

Options for responding to a customer you suspect may be suicidal

- Notify range owner or manager (if applicable) if at all uncomfortable with a prospective rental Urge customer with little firearm experience to seek training before renting
- Ask person directly if s/he is suicidal; if yes, offer National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number 1-1-800-273-8255 (Answered by the Helpline Center in South Dakota)
- Notify nearby dealers/range owners that someone you denied a rental may go to their store/range; notify police
- Trust your instincts; you are under no obligation to rent a gun to anyone

"What else can I do?"

Display a suicide prevention hotline poster in your range

Give customers 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 SD visit www.sdsuicideprevention.org

