

Centerstone Clinical and Administrative Policies and Procedures: Securing Weapons for Suicidal/Homicidal Clients

Purpose:

To ensure weapons potentially suicidal and/or homicidal clients wish to relinquish are secured in a safe and appropriate manner.

Policy:

It is the policy of Centerstone to provide for the safety of staff and suicidal and/or homicidal clients by assisting the client in the securing of a weapon(s) in their possession.

Procedure:

Periodically, a client expressing suicidal and/or homicidal ideation/intent may request to relinquish a weapon(s) to a Centerstone staff for safekeeping. There are also occasions when a service provider may inquire about a client's suicidal and/or homicidal ideation and subsequently discover the client is in possession of a weapon(s) (on their person, in their vehicle, or in their home). Centerstone staff is forbidden from holding or taking possession of a client's dischargeable weapon (firearm, grenade, other explosive device). When either of the above occurs, the following procedure must be observed:

A. When a Client in Possession of a Dischargeable Weapon (on their person) at a Centerstone location:

1. If by self-disclosure or after provider inquiry, a client divulges they currently have a dischargeable weapon(s) on their person, the provider will ask the client to carefully place the weapon(s) on the floor.
2. The provider and client must immediately exit the office where the weapon(s) is located and the door will be locked.
3. After vacating/locking the office in which the weapon(s) has been placed, the provider must:
 - a. Immediately place the client in another office in the building,
 - b. Explain to the client Centerstone policy on securing dischargeable weapons, and
 - c. Notify their clinic manager, coordinator, clinical supervisor or office manager that a dischargeable weapon has breached the building and its location. This notification may be provided via the facility's (internal) telephone system.

4. The clinic manager, coordinator, clinical supervisor or office manager must immediately proceed to the named location and ensure no one enters said room/office until the dischargeable weapon(s) is removed by law enforcement.
5. While the provider continues their session with the client, the clinic manager, coordinator, clinical supervisor or office manager must immediately contact local law enforcement to inform them of the presence of a dischargeable weapon(s) breach at our location and ask for an immediate response to secure the weapon(s). Centerstone staff making this call will inform law enforcement this is not an armed suspect and/or hostage situation.
6. The provider will explain to the client that law enforcement will be arriving to secure the dischargeable weapon(s). Once they arrive, law enforcement will be escorted to the weapon's location for removal.
7. In Adult Residential settings when only one staff member is on shift, the weapon will be secured in a separate room and staff will remain with residents, until law enforcement arrives to remove the weapon.
8. In the event law enforcement refuses to respond, the clinic manager, coordinator, clinical supervisor or office manager will contact the Vice President for Crisis and Disaster Management who will contact the Government Relations Manager for assistance if needed.

When a Client is in Possession of a Dischargeable or Non-Dischargeable Weapon (in their vehicle)

1. Any weapon(s) known to be located in a client's vehicle must never be brought into a Centerstone facility. If a client wishes to relinquish a weapon(s) for safeguard purposes, the weapon(s) will only be retrieved from the vehicle by law enforcement.
2. The provider must notify their clinical supervisor or office manager a client has a weapon(s) in their vehicle which they wish to have secured. The clinic manager, coordinator, clinical supervisor or office manager must immediately contact local law enforcement to inform them of the presence of a weapon(s) breach in the parking lot of our location and ask for an immediate

response to secure the weapon(s). Centerstone staff making this call will inform law enforcement this is not an armed suspect and/or hostage situation.

3. The provider will explain to the client Centerstone policy on securing weapon(s). They will also alert the client that law enforcement will be arriving to secure the weapon(s). Once they arrive, law enforcement will be escorted to the weapon's location for removal.
4. While awaiting the arrival of law enforcement, the provider should begin/continue their session with the client.
5. In the event law enforcement refuses to respond, the clinical supervisor or office manager will contact the Government Relations Manager for assistance if needed.

B. When a Client is in Possession of a Non-Dischargeable Weapon (on their person) at a Centerstone location

1. If by self-disclosure or after provider inquiry, a client divulges they currently have a non-dischargeable weapon(s) on their person, the service provider will ask the client to carefully place the weapon(s) on the floor.
2. The provider and client must immediately exit the office where the weapon(s) is located and the door will be locked.
3. After vacating and locking the office in which the weapon(s) has been placed, the provider must:
 - a. Immediately place the client in another office in the building,
 - b. Explain to the client Centerstone policy on securing non-dischargeable weapons, and
 - c. Notify their clinic manager, coordinator, clinical supervisor or office manager that a non-dischargeable weapon has breached the building and its location. This notification may be provided via the facility's (internal) telephone system.
4. The clinic manager, coordinator, clinical supervisor or office manager should immediately proceed to the named location and ensure no one enters said room/office.
5. While the service provider continues their session with the client, the clinic manager,

coordinator, clinical supervisor or office manager must secure the non-dischargeable weapon(s) by wrapping it in paper and securing it with packaging tape. The wrapped/taped weapon is then placed in an envelope with the client's name, staff name securing the item, witness name, date, and time. The non-dischargeable weapon will then be placed in a locked file cabinet or closet.

6. When a client requests to have their non-dischargeable weapon(s) returned, their service provider will assess their risk for suicide and/or homicide. If it is assessed there is minimal risk, the weapon(s) will be returned to the client. If it is assessed there is greater than minimal risk and the client demands return of the non-dischargeable weapon(s), then local law enforcement will be contacted as described above for securing of the weapon(s).

C. Field/Home Visits

1. If a client informs a provider they are in possession of a weapon in their home and they wish to relinquish it for safeguard purposes, the provider will explain Centerstone policy to involve law enforcement. In addition, the provider will inquire as to what weapon(s) the client is in possession of and their location.
2. The provider must contact their clinical supervisor to apprise them of the situation.
3. The provider must contact law enforcement to arrange for the securing of the weapon(s). Centerstone staff making this call will inform law enforcement that this is not an armed suspect and/or hostage situation.
4. The provider must remain with the client until law enforcement arrives.
5. Upon law enforcement arrival, they will be informed of the weapon's location for removal.
6. In residential settings, housing staff must follow the same procedures outlined above, following their supervisory structure for reporting incidents.
7. In the event law enforcement refuses to respond, the clinical supervisor will contact their immediate supervisor. The Program Director will contact the Government Relations Manager for assistance if needed.