

**988**

**SUICIDE  
& CRISIS  
LIFELINE**



**BJA**  
Building on Justice Assistance  
U.S. Department of Justice



**Justice  
Center**

# 988: A new resource for people in crisis

## WHAT IS 988?

Not everyone who calls 911 needs a police response. As a law enforcement officer, you can help people in your community receive the help they need. In times of crisis, that may mean connecting people directly to crisis-trained counselors.

**As of July 16, 2022, people in crisis can reach the suicide and crisis lifeline by dialing or texting 988.** 988 services are distinct and separate from the emergency medical and public safety response associated with 911.

For more information about 988, visit <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988/>.

## WHEN TO CALL 988:

988 is more than just an easy-to-remember number—it's a direct connection to compassionate, accessible care and support for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress, including:

- Thoughts of suicide
- Mental health or substance use crisis
- Non-crisis emotional distress
- Concern for a loved one who may need crisis support

988 is confidential, free, and available  
24/7/365

**CALL or TEXT 988**  
**CHAT at 988lifeline.org**