

STOP THE ROOM — IF A STUDENT DISCLOSES HARM

Use this the moment a student says, writes, or hints that someone is hurting them, that they are hurting themselves, or that they are in danger. You do not need proof. You do not need details.

1 • PAUSE — calm voice, no alarm	"I want to pause us right here. Thank you for trusting us with that. It sounds important, and you deserve a private conversation with an adult who can help."
2 • PROTECT THE ROOM	Co-facilitator moves the group to the planned buffer activity (Habit Stack or a quiet journal prompt). The student is never singled out or asked to explain in front of peers.
3 • PRIVATE — listen, don't investigate	Within sight of the second adult. Let the student talk. Do not ask leading questions, do not ask for details, do not contact the person named. Say: "You did the right thing by telling me."
4 • BE HONEST ABOUT CONFIDENTIALITY	"I can't keep this just between us, because my job is to make sure you're safe. I'll only tell the people who need to know so they can help." Never promise secrecy.
5 • REPORT	Texas Family Code §261.101: report suspected abuse or neglect to DFPS (1-800-252-5400 or txabusehotline.org) or law enforcement within 48 hours of first suspecting it. You must make the report yourself — you cannot hand it off. Also follow district policy (counselor and administrator). Immediate danger: call 911 now.
6 • SELF-HARM OR SUICIDE RISK	Do not leave the student alone. Walk them to the counselor. 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (call or text) is a backup, not a replacement for the counselor.
7 • DOCUMENT	Write the student's exact words, the time, and who you told. No interpretation, no opinions. Store it per district policy — not in this kit.
8 • CLOSE THE GROUP + CARE	Back in the room: "Sometimes this work brings things up. If anything today felt heavy, you can talk to [counselor] or either of us." Debrief with your co-facilitator afterward.

NEVER

- Never promise to keep it secret.
- Never investigate, ask "why," or ask for details.
- Never confront the person named.
- Never discuss it with other students or staff who do not need to know.
- Never wait for the session to end if the student is in immediate danger.

A role-play line is not a disclosure. A real statement about a real person is — even if it comes during a role-play.