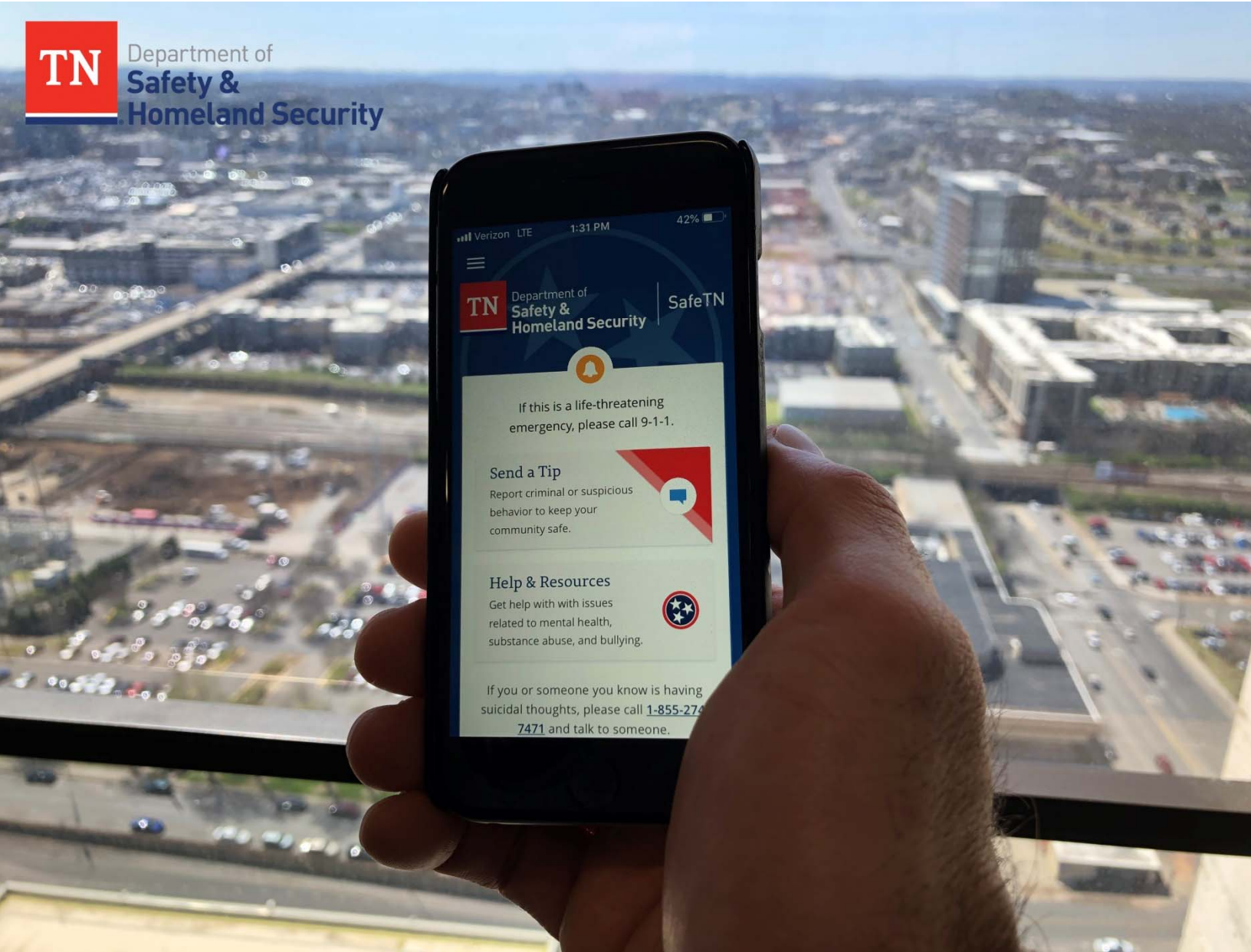


TN

Department of  
**Safety &  
Homeland Security**



# SafeTN

Suspicious Activity Reporting Mobile Application

Tennessee Department of Safety & Homeland Security | April 2019



SafeTN is a secure, open door communications platform where you can send in tips and access useful resources to help keep your school and community safe.

## **How Does It Work**

With our anonymous reporting system, students, faculty, parents, and the public can easily and confidentially report their concerns to help prevent violence in our schools and our communities. Tips can be submitted 24/7 through the mobile app from any compatible device. The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security will review, assess, and then send all submissions to law enforcement, mental health crisis response teams, and/or school administrators for intervention based on the information received.

## **What To Report**

With SafeTN, you can anonymously report suspicious or criminal behavior and other safety concerns. You can do this by reporting observed threats, behaviors, or actions. Here is an example of some of the common behaviors and incidents to report:

- Assault
- Sexual misconduct
- Bragging about an upcoming planned attack
- Violence or planned violence
- Physical injury or harm to self or others
- Threats of violence

## **How does SafeTN help prevent harmful student-related behavior?**

Threats of retaliation and stigmatization often discourage the reporting of dangerous or criminal activity. Based on research from the U.S. Secret Service, in 81% of violent incidents in U.S. schools, someone other than the attacker knew

about the attacker's plan, but failed to report it. SafeTN provides a confidential means for students, faculty, parents, and the community to report unusual, suspicious, or criminal behavior.

### **How can I submit a tip?**

Tips can be submitted 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week through the SafeTN mobile app. Multimedia attachments are encouraged.

### **Will information obtained through the SafeTN app be kept confidential?**

The information received through the SafeTN app is confidential. As such, it is shared only with those agencies and/or organizations that have a 'need to know'; which could include law enforcement agencies, school officials, and community mental health services - based on the information provided.

### **How quickly is information passed on to local authorities if a threat is assessed?**

Information that is deemed to be a public safety hazard will be immediately disseminated to the nearest law enforcement agency for a response. Additionally, Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security Agents will be notified so that they can provide assistance, as needed, to that local law enforcement agency.

### **What happens to the information if the individual reporting is threatening to hurt him/herself?**

The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security will address the immediate need, and as necessary, forward the call to the appropriate responding agency. All psychiatric emergencies are referred to the appropriate community

mental health services psychiatric crisis line and Law Enforcement may be called to conduct a welfare check.

### **Who will be the agency investigating threats and/or other information received through the SafeTN app?**

This is a community based mobile application that allows citizens to report suspicious, criminal, and threat based information. We anticipate schools being the largest user of this application. The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security will receive and vet all of the information that comes through the SafeTN app; however, it's still a local matter. The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security will assist in the investigation as need be.

### **When will School Officials be notified of a threat or other information involving their schools?**

Because the content and circumstances of the information received will vary, the appropriate follow-up action will likewise vary. Information that is received through the SafeTN app will be reviewed and vetted by the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security and then disseminated to the appropriate organizations based on the nature of the information.

### **What about false or fake reports being received through the SafeTN app?**

The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security will use their professional expertise to assess the validity of reports and determine what further action is appropriate. Practical jokes and prank tips will not be tolerated. Reporting false or fake information is a serious action that will result in a response from the appropriate authorities. If a person submits information with the intent of

providing a false or fake report, that person will be in violation of TCA 39-16-502 and may face criminal charges.

### **Who keeps records of the information that is submitted?**

The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security keep records of the information submitted in accordance with Federal regulations. To promote program accountability; school personnel, local law enforcement, or community mental health service personnel may be asked to submit outcome reports detailing how incidents are handled.

### **How does a school implement SafeTN?**

**The SafeTN app is available on the Apple App Store and Google Play.** Students, staff, parents, and the community only need to download the **free** mobile app on a compatible device.

### **What should my school district do to prepare?**

We recommend that all school districts establish a threat assessment team based on the best practices provided by the Tennessee Department of Education and in partnership with their local law enforcement agencies. Additionally, we encourage that all schools communicate and cultivate a robust working relationship with their local law enforcement and other public safety agencies so that in the event of an emergency they are better prepared to mitigate and manage any situation.

**What about parents? To what extent are parents involved in responding to potential threats? Will there be communication materials available to explain the process?**

While the identity of the person submitting information will remain confidential, parents may be notified of the existence of a potential threat if the situation demands that they be contacted.

The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security will be creating materials to promote and explain the SafeTN app and its purpose. Links to the app and materials are available on the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security's website at:

<https://www.tn.gov/safety/homeland-security/safetn.html>

*Further questions about SafeTN may be directed to:*

Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security

312 Rosa L. Parks Ave

Nashville, TN 37243

615-532-7825