

Hello,

I am an LMFT with a practice in Newtown. With the fall out of 12/14 still fresh, I understand there are many questions and needs to address. The banning of assault weapons seems to me to be a no brainer. And the most tangible step to take. Less tangible is what to do about Mental Health. It concerns me that this boy was struggling for years and his mother was simply allowed to remove him from the public school, which is , and could be an enormous safety net for identifying anti-social behavior. What criteria is set up to follow up on students who have been removed for Home Schooling? If they are not functioning well in a public school setting, what steps are put in place for therapy, or requirements on appropriate parenting.

I have had situation where kids who were cutting themselves are sent to me, and not allowed to return to their public school until I send a note stating they are not going to harm themselves or others. I have had situations where I have seen a child I believe had great potential to harm themselves, told the parents and got no response, then I reported the case to DCF, and was told they would not intervene as it was a mental health issue, NOT an abuse issue. There are gaps that obviously need to be filled.

Thank you for your hard work,

Cathy Roche, LMFT

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