CHILD WELFARE, SCHOOL, & YOUTH HARM-REDUCTION SAFETY PROTOCOL

Youth Runaway & Missing-from-Care Safety Plan

Collaborative, Non-Punitive Safety & Re-Connection Plan for Youth at Risk of Leaving Care or Home

Trauma-Informed Harm-Reduction Rationale: Youth leave home, foster placements, or residential care to escape conflict, hypervigilance, or relational pain—or under pressure from recruiters/peers **(ACF, 2019; National Runaway Safeline, 2022)**. Never frame this plan as permission to run; instead, partner transparently so that if the youth ever feels overwhelmed or unsafe, they know how to stay safe, protect their digital privacy, and return without shame or punishment.

Youth Name / Chosen Name & Pronouns: _____	**Plan Date / Age:** _____
Collaborating Adult / Advocate & Role: _____	**Youth Copy Provided (Wallet / Phone Note):** _____

Part 1: Early Warning Signs & Before-Leaving Pause Steps

Safety Planning Area	Youth's Specific Triggers & Pause Strategies
1. Triggers & Urge-to-Leave Signals Arguments at home/placement, feeling trapped or unheard, anniversaries, peer pressure, or body sensations (racing heart, shutting down).	
2. Safe "Cool-Down" Spaces & Actions Before Leaving Taking a walk around the block, listening to music, going to a school counselor's office, or texting a trusted adult for a 15-minute reset.	

Part 2: Practical Safety & Digital Protection If Away from Home/Care

Harm-Reduction Safeguard	Youth's Personalized Safety Steps
3. Safe Places to Go & Places/People to Avoid Youth drop-in centers, libraries, Safe Place locations, trusted relatives—and specific neighborhoods, hotels, or adults/recruiters to avoid.	

© 2026 Klasey Consulting | Youth Runaway & Missing-from-Care Safety Plan

Harm-Reduction Safeguard	Youth's Personalized Safety Steps
4. Essentials, Phone, & Location-Privacy Steps Keeping phone charged, carrying ID/meds, turning off live location sharing on social apps, never sharing real-time location with strangers, and keeping a code word with a safe adult.	

Part 3: Safe Anchors, Non-Punitive Return Agreement, & 24/7 Hotlines

Support Tier	Safe Contacts & Zero-Shame Re-Connection Commitments
Trusted Adults & Safe Friends	
Non-Punitive Return Promise	**Our Commitment to You:** If you leave, we will not judge you, lecture you, or take away your bed/support when you reach out. You can text or call at any hour—even if you are not ready to come back yet—just to let us know you are safe or ask for a ride.
24/7 Free & Confidential Youth Lines	**National Runaway Safeline:** Call or text **1-800-RUNAWAY (1-800-786-2929)** (free rides home, shelter, confidential chat) | **National Human Trafficking Hotline:** Call **1-888-373-7888** or text **HELP to 233733** | **988 Crisis Lifeline:** Call/text **988**

Code Word, Caregiver/Staff Support Commitments, & Follow-Up Plan

Practice Standards & References

1. Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Family and Youth Services Bureau. (2019). *Runaway and Homeless Youth Trauma-Informed Care & Safety Planning Guidance*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
2. National Runaway Safeline. (2022). *Youth Crisis Prevention & Harm-Reduction Safety Planning Standards*.

Clinical & Originality Notice: *This youth runaway and missing-from-care safety plan is an original collaborative harm-reduction tool informed by federal youth services guidance (ACF, 2019) and runaway prevention standards (National Runaway Safeline, 2022). No copyrighted third-party forms are reproduced herein.* *© 2026 Klasey Consulting. All rights reserved.*

Partner with Klasey Consulting

Interested in youth safety planning protocols, child welfare and school runaway-prevention consultation, or trauma-informed trainings? Contact us at **info@klaseyconsulting.com** to learn more about our trainings and consultation services.

KLASEY KC CONSULTING