Not Sure When to Use 988?

Some of the feelings people who contact 988 have:

- “I feel alone”
- “I don’t feel like myself”
- “I need to talk”
- “I’m overwhelmed”

988 is More than a Number

It’s a direct connection to compassionate and accessible care.

When you call, text, or chat 988 you are connected to trained counselors that are part of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network.

There is hope.

988 Crisis Lifeline

A New Crisis Resource for New York

Reasons people might reach out:

- Thoughts of Suicide
- Addiction
- Worrying about Someone Else
- Eating and Body Image Issues
- Relationship Issues
- General Anxiety
- Covid-19 Stress
- Abuse
- Trauma
- Loneliness
- Insomnia or Problems Sleeping
- Trouble Thinking Clearly
- Intense Mood Changes
What Happens When I Contact 988?

You CALL 988.

You will be asked if you need dedicated services for Veterans or in Spanish.

A trained behavioral health crisis counselor will talk with you.

You will be asked if you need dedicated services for Veterans or in Spanish.

The counselor will:
• Listen to you.
• Understand how your problem is affecting you.
• Provide personal support.
• Get you the help you need.

You TEXT 988.

Your contact is routed to an official Lifeline crisis center based on your area code.

Follow-up services may be offered.

You CHAT 988.

Your contact is routed to an official Lifeline crisis center based on your IP address.

Learn the WARNING SIGNS of Suicide:

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between 988 and 911?

988 provides easy access to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network and related crisis resources. This is different from 911, where the focus is on dispatching Emergency Medical Services, fire, and police as needed. The goal of 988 is to meet the country’s growing suicide and mental health-related crisis care needs.

What is 988?

988 is the new three-digit number that connects people to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. This service is for anyone who is:
• suicidal
• experiencing a mental health or substance use-related crisis
• experiencing any kind of emotional distress

Does it cost money to use 988?

Contacting 988 is a free service.

Look for the FACTS:

FEELINGS - Hopelessness, excessive worry, burdensomeness, rejection, worthlessness

ACTIONS - Impulsiveness, self-harm, increased drug or alcohol use, giving away possessions, looking for a way to die such as saving up pills, gaining access to a gun, or searching online

CHANGES - Particularly in the presence of other warning signs; changes in attitude, moods, behaviors, or social connection; sudden change in sleep or eating habits

THREATS - Specific or vague statements or any expression of death or suicide; can be written, spoken, activity on social media, or non-verbal threats

SITUATIONS - Life changes that cause the person to be overwhelmed, unprepared, or triggered, such as personal loss, connection to death, bullying or abuse, failures, or getting in trouble