The University of Southern Indiana (USI) is committed to supporting a positive, healthy and safe student experience. The University’s CARE Team is a cross-functional assessment group, chaired by the Dean of Students, that responds to students in apparent/potential distress. The CARE Team will make an individualized and objective assessment of each student’s ability to safely participate in University programs. Under the purview of the CARE Team, the Self Harm Protocol’s primary intent is to assist in providing at-risk students with options to address their problems. The protocol includes procedures to respond to suicide threats, suicide attempts and other self-harm ideation, as well as guidelines for when and how to contact family and/or friends during an emergency.

The Incident Response portion of the protocol is intended to provide guidelines for faculty, staff and others to follow in response to suicide threats, suicide attempts and other self-harm ideation involving students living on and off campus. In each case, specific directions guide an appropriate response for particular emergency situations, including appropriate follow-up with the student. Students who are judged to be at significant risk of self-harm should be referred to the Dean of Students who will work in collaboration with the Counseling Center to ensure that such students are directed to appropriate on-campus and local resources. For students who demonstrate a repeated risk of self-harm, a referral will be made to the University CARE Team to help determine the best ways to support the student remaining in school.

Briefly, the protocol includes the following steps:
- Faculty/staff/student becomes aware of self harm incident/risk
- Dean of Students: Referral for appropriate services (Public Safety (emergency response), Counseling Center, local Police/Sheriff’s Office (comuter wellness check, etc.)
- Mandatory meeting with Dean of Students or Designee for immediate overall assessment
- Determination of parental notification, faculty notice, Housing and Residence Life follow-up
- CARE Team consultation to determine appropriate recommendations for the student.

In response to certain self-harm events the University will notify the person(s) identified in the emergency contact information provided by the student. The decision to notify shall be made in accordance with the University Emergency Response procedures. These procedures also apply to notification in the event of accidental injury, life-threatening illness or the death of a student. The Dean of Students Office is responsible for coordinating notification in collaboration with other University administrators. Incidents requiring emergency notification should only be handled by the Dean of Students or Senior Administrators in the Office of the Provost. Faculty/staff should not contact those listed as emergency contact resources.

Following a medical withdrawal related to self harm a student must complete the "DOSO Return to Campus Questionnaire" and meet with the Dean of Students or Designee to determine how the student can best be supported making a transition back to classes and campus. In consultation with the CARE Team, the Dean of Students may determine, in some cases, that students cannot be adequately supported while living on-campus and in such cases students may continue to be enrolled at the University but may not reside in campus housing.