

This article discusses and describes recent legal precedent and argues that there is insufficient legal guidance for most colleges and universities. Case law is sparse and inconsistent. Legislatures have not provided any form of comprehensive guidance to colleges either. Even the reports regarding events at Virginia Tech leave many open questions. Facing a mental health crisis, many colleges and universities must speculate as to their legal responsibilities to prevent student suicide. The law has been slow to react and respond, and the absence of sufficient legal guidance for compliance is itself dangerous and vexing. The author issues a call to action, imploring the American legal system to develop guiding rules and principles for dealing with a population with significant mental health issues and risks.