



Warning Signs That an Individual Could Become Violent



- Case folder indicates previous history of violence
- Makes hostile remarks
- Seems distracted
- Has difficulty concentrating
- Appears anxious, upset or depressed
- Speech disjointed, doesn't make sense
- Body language: combative stance makes fists, wild gestures, pacing, etc.
- Personal appearance unkempt or markedly different than usual
- Dressed inappropriately for climate/weather such as heavy clothes in summer or light clothes in winter
- Makes repeated phone calls expressing rage, anger or threats or claims that they are not receiving services to which they believe they are entitled
- Refuses to take medication
- History of drug or alcohol abuse

Remember! Violence at the workplace is a serious problem, and should be identified, assessed, and controlled, just like any other workplace hazard. If you are concerned about violence at work, talk to your co-workers, health and safety committee, union representatives, and employer.

Upon request, PEF Occupational Safety & Health will provide other factsheets, standards, regulations, and other resources. Contact us at healthandsafety@pef.org or 518-785-1900, ext. 254 or 1-800-342-4306, ext. 254.

Funded in part by a grant from the NYS Department of Labor Hazard Abatement Board

Produced by the New York State Public Employees Federation

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