

A close-up, profile view of a man with a beard and short dark hair, wearing a grey t-shirt. He is holding a grey smartphone to his ear with his right hand, looking off to the side with a thoughtful expression. The background is a blurred indoor setting with light coming from a window.

**988**

**SUICIDE  
& CRISIS  
LIFELINE**



**BJA**  
BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



**Justice  
Center**

# 988: A New Resource for People in Crisis

## WHAT IS 988?

988 is a nationwide service that provides free, 24/7 access to crisis counselors and connections to local crisis resources. Its goal is to provide people in crisis with immediate support in the least restrictive manner.

Getting the right care at the right time can improve people's chances of receiving lifesaving support and reduce justice system involvement. As a law enforcement officer, you can help people in your community access the support they need by directing them to trained crisis counselors.

For more information about 988, visit [samhsa.gov/find-help/988/](https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988/).

## WHEN TO CALL 988:

988 is more than just an easy-to-remember number—it's a direct connection to compassionate, accessible care and support for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress, including:

- Thoughts of suicide
- Mental health or substance use crisis
- Non-crisis emotional distress
- Concern for a loved one who may need crisis support

988 is confidential, free, and available  
24/7/365

**CALL or TEXT 988**  
**CHAT at 988lifeline.org**