Responsible reporting on suicide
Quick reference guide

Dos

• Do provide accurate information about where to seek help

• Do educate the public about the facts of suicide and suicide prevention, without spreading myths

• Do report stories of how to cope with life stressors or suicidal thoughts, and how to get help

• Do apply particular caution when reporting celebrity suicides

• Do apply caution when interviewing bereaved family or friends

• Do recognize that media professionals themselves may be affected by stories about suicide

Don’ts

• Don’t place stories about suicide prominently and do not unduly repeat such stories

• Don’t use language which sensationalizes or normalizes suicide, or presents it as a constructive solution to problems

• Don’t explicitly describe the method used

• Don’t provide details about the site/location

• Don’t use sensational headlines

• Don’t use photographs, video footage or social media links