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**School Safety and Security: Threats Against Teachers and Staff**



Current Reality: The Code of Virginia [§18.2-60](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title18.2/chapter4/section18.2-60/) establishes that written threats are a Class 6 Felony, but oral threats are only a Class 1 misdemeanor. Oral threats against teachers and staff are every bit as upsetting to the target of the threat and disruptive of the school day as written threats and should be every bit as consequential for the person making the threat.

RCPS recommends the General Assembly:

## Revise §18.2-60. Threats of death or bodily injury to a person or member of his family; threats of death or bodily injury to persons on school property; threats of death or bodily injury to health care providers; penalty.

B. Any person who orally makes a threat to kill or to do bodily injury to (i) any employee of any elementary, middle, or secondary school, while on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity or (ii) any health care provider as defined in § [8.01-581.1](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/8.01-581.1/) who is engaged in the performance of his duties in a hospital as defined in § [18.2-57](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/18.2-57/) or in an emergency room on the premises of any clinic or other facility rendering emergency medical care, unless the person is on the premises of the hospital or emergency room of the clinic or other facility rendering emergency medical care as a result of an emergency custody order pursuant to § [37.2-808](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/37.2-808/), involuntary temporary detention order pursuant to § [37.2-809](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/37.2-809/), involuntary hospitalization order pursuant to § [37.2-817](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/37.2-817/), or emergency custody order of a conditionally released acquitted pursuant to § [19.2-182.9](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/19.2-182.9/), is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor **for a first offense and a Class 6 felony for subsequent offenses**.