Children at Risk for Self-Harm

You brought your child to The Children's Mercy Hospital because he tried to harm himself or you are afraid he may harm himself. This hospital does not have an Inpatient Psychiatric Service, but we will keep your child here until he is safe. We can help you determine where he can get the best help.

Here are some of the things we will do to help him stay safe.

1. We will have him change into hospital clothing.
2. We will ask you to take all his belongings with you. We will tell you why this is necessary.
3. Your child’s medical needs will be taken care of first.
4. Someone from the hospital will interview you and your child. The appropriate mental health team will be contacted to also interview you and your child to help determine where to get the best help.
5. Until we are sure your child is safe, someone will need to be with him at all times. The doctor will determine if your child will need "one-on-one" observation to keep him safe. This means your child is never left alone, even in the bathroom.
6. After all the information has been obtained from the people who have worked with your family, we will also help you find the best place to provide follow-up care.
7. We will recommend that your child not leave until we are sure he is safe and a plan has been made. We will ask him to sign a "No Harm" contract.
8. While your child is here, please do not bring him anything from home.
9. Your child will not be allowed to use the phone or have friends visit until his doctor approves.