



Mental Health Glossary for Law Enforcement: Key Terms and Definitions

- **Anhedonia:** Loss of interest in and withdrawal from all regular and pleasurable activities
- **Blunted:** A severe reduction in the intensity of feeling tone
- **Catatonic:** State in which someone is awake but does not respond to people or their environment
- **Compulsion:** Pathological need to act on an impulse, which if resisted, causes anxiety
- **Constricted:** Impoverished, inhibited, a spectrum of feelings not elicited
- **Delusion:** A fixed false belief
 - **Control:** False belief that one's will, thoughts, and feelings are controlled by external forces
 - **Grandeur:** False belief of one's importance, power, or identity
 - **Persecution:** False belief that one is being harassed or cheated
 - **Reference:** False belief that behavior of others, events, or objects refers to oneself
 - **Thought Broadcasting:** Belief that thoughts can be heard by others
 - **Thought Insertion:** Belief that thoughts are being implanted by external forces
 - **Thought Withdrawal:** Belief that thoughts are being removed by external forces
- **Depersonalization:** A subjective sense of being unreal, strange, or unfamiliar to oneself



- **Dysphoria:** An unpleasant, painful, or anguished state
- **Euphoria:** Intense elevation with feelings of grandeur
- **Fast Pressured:** Rate of speech greater than average
- **Grandiosity:** Exaggeration of one's worth
- **Hallucination:** An incorrect sensory perception in the absence of actual external stimulus
 - **Auditory:** False perception of sound (elementary noises or complete voices/words)
 - **Extracampine:** Seeing objects outside the sensory field (e.g., behind one's back)
 - **Gustatory:** False perception of taste
 - **Olfactory:** False perception of smell
 - **Somatic:** False perception of things occurring to one's body
 - **Tactile:** False perception of touch or surface sensation
 - **Visual:** False perception of sight consisting of formed and unformed images
- **Helplessness:** Incapable of assisting oneself
- **Homicidal Ideation:** Desire to do serious harm or take the life of another person
- **Hopelessness:** Utter despair, belief that problems cannot be solved
- **Hyperactivity:** Super normal amount of purposeful, goal-directed activity
- **Hyper Religiosity:** Excessive concern with spiritual matters



- **Ideas of Reference:** Incorrect assumption that real events or incidents have direct reference to oneself
- **Inappropriate:** Emotional tone inconsistent with content of speech, thoughts, or ideas
- **Irritable:** Easily annoyed and provoked to anger
- **Labile:** Rapid, abrupt changes in feeling tone
- **Mood Incongruence:** Content of thoughts and feelings has no association with mood
- **Mutism:** Inability to speak
- **Obsessions:** Persistence of an unwanted thought that cannot be eliminated from consciousness
- **Paranoid Ideation:** Belief that one is singled out for unfair treatment
- **Poverty of Speech:** Restricted amount of speech, often monosyllables
- **Ruminations:** Excessive worry, repetitive or continuous speculation
- **Slow:** Rate of speech less than average
- **Somatic Preoccupation:** Overly concerned with body functions
- **Suicidal Ideation:** Desire to harm oneself or end one's life
- **Word Salad:** Incoherent speech using unrelated words and phrases in a sentence