



NASW Georgia Statement on the Loss of VA Social Worker Nicholas "Nic" Crews

We are deeply saddened to learn of the tragic loss of VA social worker Nicholas "Nic" Crews, who was killed while conducting a mental health evaluation on the job. While NASW Georgia did not have a direct connection to Nic, we extend our heartfelt condolences to Nic's family, colleagues, and all who are impacted by this devastating event.

This tragedy is a sobering reminder of the realities many social workers face every day. Across the country, social workers are increasingly operating on the frontlines by supporting individuals in crisis and stepping into situations that require both compassion and courage. Unfortunately, incidents of violence in the course of this work are becoming more visible, underscoring the urgent need to prioritize safety within our profession.

Social work practice must include not only awareness of risk, but comprehensive safety planning, training, and organizational protocols that go beyond minimum standards. Employers, systems, and policymakers share responsibility for ensuring that social workers are adequately prepared, protected, and supported in the environments in which they serve.

In moments like this, we must also turn toward one another. We encourage social workers who may be affected by this tragedy to seek support from colleagues, supervisors, employee assistance programs, or mental health resources. Taking care of ourselves and each other is essential to sustaining this work.

This loss also reinforces a broader truth: social workers must be supported, protected, and invested in at every level. The profession continues to give so much to individuals, families, and communities, often under challenging and under-resourced conditions. Ensuring fair compensation, safe working conditions, and strong systemic support is not optional; it is necessary.

We honor the life and service of Nic and acknowledge, support, and praise all our colleagues who continue to do this critical work each day.

Sincerely,

NASW Georgia Leadership and Staff