

WARM PASS

A Neurodiversity-Affirming Warm Handover Framework

Mindmental LLC | March 31, 2026 | Original Concept by Nikkia Dowling

The Framework

W	Welcome	The first point of contact is relational - not transactional. Families are welcomed as whole persons, not diagnoses.
A	Affirming	All interactions are neurodiversity-affirming: strengths-based, identity-first where preferred, and free from deficit framing.
R	Relationship	A relationship is built before any referral is made. Trust is the infrastructure that makes handovers hold.
M	Military-Informed	The framework integrates military culture, PCS cycle awareness, and dual-system navigation for military and veteran families.
P	Person-Centered	Every step is guided by the autistic individual's and family's priorities - not system convenience.
A	Advocacy	Families are supported in naming their needs, knowing their rights, and having a voice in their care.
S	Support	Active support accompanies the transition. The navigator walks alongside - making introductions, attending where appropriate, ensuring no context is lost.
S	Sustainment	The goal is capacity, not dependence. Families leave equipped, connected, and empowered to navigate forward on their own.

"No Drop Zone"

Every family that enters the WARM PASS process is accompanied until they are connected, stable, and empowered. No autistic individual or neurodivergent family should fall through the cracks of a system that was never designed to hold them.

Who This Serves

Autistic individuals across the lifespan (children, adolescents, adults) • Families navigating community mental health systems • Military and veteran families with neurodivergent family members • Families in system transitions: school-to-adult, military-to-civilian, inpatient-to-community • Providers and navigators seeking an affirming care transition framework

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