

## The Florida Shooting

On the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018, a student named Nikolas Cruz shot 17 students dead as 'revenge' because he was expelled for behavioural problems towards teachers and students. The boy has moved school 6 times in 3 years in hope to deal with the puzzling behavioural issues. Lawyers representing Cruz have said he will plead guilty.



Nikolas Jacob Cruz was born on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 1998 in South Florida and adopted at birth. His adoptive father died at age 67 in 2004 whilst his adoptive mother died age 68 just 3 months before the shooting. The teenager had been living with relatives and friends since his mother's death. Many have suggested that during this period he was neglected and left to deal with the loss of his mother.



In 2014 he was moved to a school for children with emotional or learning disabilities. He returned to Stoneman Douglas High School but was banished for a second time 2 years later due to disciplinary reasons. A warning had been made to students and teachers that he had been known to threaten other students.

The Florida Department of Children and families investigated Cruz and his household focusing on his bedroom because of Snapchat posts in which he had slit open both his arms and admitted to planning to buy a gun. In their assessment of the situation, they came to a conclusion that he was at low risk of harming himself and others. Before this, he had received treatment but had not received any within a year before the shooting.

Families of the dead children are majorly affected by this teenager. One mother who lost her 6 year old son in a shooting 5 years before is trying to influence schools to raise their security in order to keep the children safer. She has also warned their parents that they could lose their children if Trump does not change the gun laws.