

Kiwanis International  
Youth Protection Guidelines  
Overview and Common Questions

September 2019



# Why youth protection matters

Kiwanis has more than 335,000 youth members each year.

- Globally, 1 in 4 youth will suffer abuse or maltreatment- World Health Organization
  - 85% of victims never report their abuse.
- Abuse is usually at the hands of a known acquaintance or family member, **NOT** strangers
  - More than 90% of abusers are people children know, love and trust.



# Education

- Clubs must educate members annually.
- Districts will have forums or workshops at conventions and conferences.



# Youth Protection Guidelines

## Background checks

- ALL Kiwanis members who work with youth in our youth clubs and programs **MUST** have a clear background check.
- Checks are good for 2 years.
- Encouraged for all Kiwanians working or serving with Kiwanis youth.



# Youth Protection Guidelines

## Chaperones and overnight events

- Chaperones must be 21 years old or older.
- Each overnight Kiwanis-sponsored youth event must have a minimum **1 adult chaperone per 10 students**. (One adult male for each 10 youth males or part of 10 youth males, and one adult female for each 10 youth females or part of 10 youth females.)
- Adults **MAY NOT** share sleeping quarters with students unless it is their child or in a bunkhouse/camp cabin setting.



# Youth Protection Guidelines

## Medication

Only allowed with *written* permission from parent or guardian.



# Youth Protection Guidelines

## Transportation best practices

- Three people in the car
- Student in the back seat/rows
- Approval from parents/guardian
- Follow local school/local law policy



# Youth Protection Guidelines

## **Social media/communication best practices**

- Best bet: Connect via a club page/account and not individual youth member accounts.
- Do not initiate following/friending, etc.
- Treat all social posts and interactions as public.
- Refrain from posting photos of youth on your personal social media pages.
- Avoid 1:1 emails and texts. Follow the rule of 3: Always include parents/guardians, or another adult (YPM or risk officer), etc.





# Youth Protection Guidelines

## Reporting guidelines:

- If a Kiwanian observes troubling behavior involving a youth at a Kiwanis event or becomes aware of a situation that is illegal or potentially unsafe for a young person at a Kiwanis event, the Kiwanian must immediately:
  - Contact the appropriate personnel on-site.
  - Provide notification to law enforcement personnel as appropriate.



# Youth Protection Guidelines

## Reporting guidelines:

- If the Kiwanian becomes aware of the troubling behavior **after** the event, they must:
  - Contact leaders of the event.
  - Provide notification to law enforcement personnel as appropriate.

All local, state, provincial and federal laws regarding reporting must be followed.



# Now what?

- Now that you have reviewed the policies and guidelines, let's learn how to apply the Kiwanis International Youth Protection Guidelines.



# Policy in practice

## Scenario 1

Casey is a 20-year-old former Key Club governor and now a Kiwanis member and wants to chaperone the DCON weekend. Casey turns 21 on the last day of the DCON.

- Can Casey chaperone the DCON?
- What do you do?



# Scenario 1 solution

- Casey cannot be an overnight chaperone for DCON.
- Casey could be invited to assist with workshops or other parts of the event to encourage participation and inclusion.



# Policy in practice

## Scenario 2

Your Key Club DCON is coming up in just 5 days, and you have 50 chaperones. You are following best practices and **ALL** chaperones must complete a background check.

- 45 have cleared. 5 are pending.
- What do you do?



# Scenario 2 solution

- The chaperones **MUST** pass the Kiwanis International background check.
- Give your volunteers a deadline of no fewer than 4 weeks prior to your event to insure adequate time.
- If you are still short on chaperones, work with your Youth Protection Manager, Kiwanis club members or district leaders who have a clear background check, as well as faculty advisors, for chaperone needs.



# Policy in practice

## Scenario 3

Pat is:

- A new college grad and a former Key Club youth leader.
- A member of the local Kiwanis Club
- A Key Club advisor.

Pat is also a communications/marketing professional and is very enthusiastic about the new role.

Pat "friends" the faculty and students in the club on Facebook.

Posts photos of the first meeting on FB/Instagram and even creates a new Key Club snapchat filter.

- What do you do?





# Scenario 3 solution

It all depends!

- If Pat has the appropriate permissions/waivers (from the school and guardians) to post and is using the club's pages, all is a-OK.
- If Pat is posting on their personal pages/accounts it is not OK.



# Policy in practice

## Scenario 4

You have a big overnight trip with multiple Key Club chapters. 35 students (19 females, 16 males) are staying overnight. Three days before the trip, you learn that one of the students, Al, is now Alice and identifies as female.

- What do you do?
- Rooming assignments?
- Chaperones?



# Scenario 4 solution

434 - GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT ACCOMMODATIONS AT EVENTS When planning events, and especially those with overnight lodging, Kiwanis organizers should be inclusive and make reasonable accommodations for the unique needs of each student participant.

- A. If the standard situation for an overnight event is shared rooms by gender, students must be allowed to access housing consistent with their self-determined gender identity. However, a student shall be assigned a room by biological sex if the student, or parent, or legal guardian so requests. A student or parent or legal guardian may suggest an alternative sleeping arrangement, such as single-occupancy room, which should be honored whenever possible. However, students cannot be required to stay in single-occupancy accommodations nor should those arrangements be made without the consent of the student or parent or legal guardian.
- B. Roommate disagreements should be addressed and resolved with the best interests of all parties in mind. If a disagreement cannot be reconciled, no student should be forced to reside with another student.



# Scenario 4 solution cont.

- C. All students must be allowed access to restroom facilities consistent with their self-determined gender identity.
- D. Event organizers should choose facilities that can be adapted to accommodate requests in accordance with these guidelines. If a facility is unwilling to accept these guidelines for any reason, a different location should be considered.
- E. Volunteers have an obligation to maintain student privacy and cannot disclose or require disclosure of a student's sexual orientation, transgender or gender nonconforming identity, biological sex, religion, disability, medical condition, or other personal information to anyone, including other students or their parents, without the consent of the student.



# Policy in practice

## Scenario 5

You are a Key Club advisor. You and the club's president and vice president are set to go on a four-hour car trip across state to attend a training session and Key Club meeting.

The night before the drive, the club president gets sick and cancels.

- What do you?



# Scenario 5 solution

- Find a third person to keep in accordance with the rule of 3.
- If that is not possible, keep a log of a few key incidents/milestones or significant highlights of the trip (start and stop times, for example).
- Call or email parents at various parts of the trip/day.



# Questions

For questions or additional information  
please contact:

[youthprotection@kiwanis.org](mailto:youthprotection@kiwanis.org)