

# Kiwanis Youth Protection Guidelines

Capital District Kiwanis Convention  
August 24, 2019



**Kiwanis**<sup>®</sup>





# Why Have This Training?

- Child abuse can happen anywhere
- Kiwanis youth programs have more than 300,000 members
- Working with youth requires trust





# Why Have This Training?

Kiwanians should act with the  
*highest standards* of care.





# Training Objectives

- Understand Kiwanis International's Youth Protection Guidelines
- Makes choices and decisions that protect both you *and* the youth you serve





# Training Objectives

- Identify suspected child abuse and troubling behavior
- Respond appropriately if a child discloses information to you about abuse or if you witness troubling behavior



# Terms and Background

- Youth Protection guidelines history
- Abuse
  - Emotional
  - Physical
  - Sexual
- “Troubling behavior”



# The Guidelines



## Education

- Clubs must educate members annually
- Districts will have workshops at conventions and conferences, like this one
- This is a real “to do” item every year!



# The Guidelines



## Chaperone

- 21 years of age or older
- Approved by school or agency to accompany youth at the event





# The Guidelines



## Criminal History Background Checks

- Kiwanis Advisors to an SLP are required to have a background check conducted & verified by Kiwanis International. These checks are valid for 2 years
- Encouraged for all working or serving with Kiwanis youth



# The Guidelines



## Overnight Stays

- One adult for each 10 youth of the same gender
- Separate sleeping quarters



# The Guidelines



## Transportation

- Rule of three
- Written approval from parent/guardian
- Follow all local law and school policies





# The Guidelines



## Medication

Only allowed with *written* permission from parent or guardian



# The Guidelines



## Alcohol / Tobacco / Marijuana / Other Substances

All youth events must be alcohol, tobacco and marijuana-free



# The Guidelines



## Reporting

You must report if you:

- Observe troubling behavior
- Learn of illegal/unsafe situation

A resource: National Child Abuse Hotline





# The Guidelines



## Reporting

- Use the “reasonable person standard”
- If participants or chaperones are not in immediate danger, contact school personnel first

- Emergency?

Call local law enforcement immediately!



# The Guidelines



## Personal Information

- Keep at least 3 years
- Keep it confidential
- When destroying, shred it!



# The Guidelines



## Youth & Social Media

- Adults should not initiate “friendships” or connections
- Interactions are public
- Refrain from excessive “liking” or “retweeting”





# The Guidelines



## Behavioral or Health Issues

- Leave it to the professionals
- Behavioral vs. personal: use good judgement
- Help the youth find professional help



# The Guidelines



## When Rules Conflict...

Always follow the highest applicable standard  
and the strictest policy in place



# Best Practices

- Background checks: required every 2 years
- Protection: rule of 3
- Reporting: follow the bylaws
- Media: be helpful, but let the authorities take charge
- Maintain confidentiality





# The Guidelines



**If your club sponsors an Aktion Club:**

- Consult the Aktion Club member guidelines, available online
- Kiwanis advisors to Aktion Clubs need an approved background check conducted & verified by Kiwanis International

# The Guidelines



If your club sponsors a **Circle K club**:

- Best practices can still apply
- CKI members fall under the same background check policies as Kiwanians
- Kiwanis advisors to CKI clubs need an approved background check conducted & verified by  
Kiwaniis International



Thank you for your attention  
and participation!



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