

# Kiwanis Youth Protection Guidelines

Training for  
Kansas Kiwanis District  
club members



**Kiwanis**<sup>®</sup>



# Why this training?

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



# Why this training?

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



# Training objectives

- Understand
- Protect
- Identify
- Respond



# Terms and background

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





# The guidelines

## Education

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



# 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**

- Required of any Kiwanis advisor to SLP clubs.
- Encouraged for all adults working or serving with Kiwanis youth
- Clubs should have a policy.
- Approved background checks shall be valid for no more than ten years.



# The guidelines

## Overnight stays

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



# The guidelines

## Transportation

- Check local laws
- Ask school about policies
- Two adults in one vehicle (or "rule of threes")



# The guidelines

## Medication

Only allow with *written* permission of parent or guardian.



# The guidelines

## **Alcohol/tobacco**

Refrain from using alcoholic beverages and tobacco products.



# The guidelines

## Reporting

You must report if you:

- Observe troubling behavior
- Learn of illegal/unsafe situation

**A resource: National Child Abuse Hotline**



# Important Numbers

- National Child Abuse Hotline – 1-800-422-4453 ([www.childhelp.org](http://www.childhelp.org))  
NOTE: This site has a list for all states.
- Kansas Department for Children and Families ([www.dcf.ks.gov](http://www.dcf.ks.gov))– 1-800-922-5330



# Important Numbers

- Kiwanis International Hotline  
1-800-KIWANIS, ext. 298  
(1-800-549-2647, ext. 298)

Email:

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



# The guidelines

## Reporting

In short:

1. "Reasonable person standard."
2. If participants or chaperones are not in immediate danger, contact school personnel first.
3. Emergency? Call local law enforcement immediately.



# The guidelines

## **Personal information**

- Keep at least 3 years
- Keep it confidential
- When destroying, shred to keep confidentiality



# The guidelines

## Youth and social media

- Adults should not initiate “friendships” or connections
- Interactions are public
- Other possible online interactions?



# The guidelines

## **Behavioral or health issues**

- Leave it to the professionals
- Behavioral vs. personal: use good judgment
- Where to find help for youth



# The guidelines

## **When rules conflict**

Always follow the highest applicable standard.

# Best practices

- Background checks: every two years
- Protection: rule of 3's
- Best vehicle choice: school or commercial
- Reporting: follow the bylaws
- Media: be helpful, but let the authorities be the authorities
- 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.



# The Guidelines

## **If your club sponsors a CKI 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.

Thank you for your  
attention and participation.



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