Kiwanis Youth Protection Guidelines

Training for
Kansas Kiwanis District club members
Why this training?

- Child abuse can happen anywhere.
- Kiwanis youth programs have more than 300,000 members.
- Working with youth = trust.
Kiwanians should act with *the highest standards* of care
Training objectives

- Understand
- Protect
- Identify
- Respond
Terms and background

• Youth Protection Guidelines history
• Abuse
  o Emotional
  o Physical
  o Sexual
• "Troubling behavior"
Education

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

• 21 years of age or older
• Approved by school or agency to accompany youth at the event.
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.
Overnight stays

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

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

Only allow with written permission of parent or guardian.
Alcohol/tobacco

Refrain from using alcoholic beverages and tobacco products.
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) NOTE: This site has a list for all states.

- Kansas Department for Children and Families (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
Reporting

In short:

1. “Reasonable person standard.”
2. If participants or chaperones are not in immediate danger, contact school personnel first.
Personal information

- Keep at least 3 years
- Keep it confidential
- When destroying, shred to keep confidentiality
Youth and social media

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

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