

**ROTARY CLUB OF PORTSMOUTH
“POLICY GUIDELINES FOR MEMBERS ENGAGING
IN
CLUB RELATED ACTIVITIES INVOLVING “MINORS” AND/OR
“VULNERABLE PERSONS”**

(BY-LAW # _____)

RECITALS:

1. WHEREAS, Rotary Club of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, (“Club”) is an independently chartered club within R.I. Rotary District #7780 (“District”);
2. WHEREAS, Club, from time to time, receives administrative prescriptions from District as to the preferred conduct of its affairs;
3. WHEREAS, District has advised Club, that “best practices” suggest the advisability of adopting guidelines (“Guidelines”) relating to the interaction of Club members (“Members”) with “minors” and/or “vulnerable persons”;
4. WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Club (“BOD”) wish the Members to adopt guidelines relating to “best practices” in a manner consistent with the best interests of Club and its Members; and,
5. WHEREAS, that false and/or malicious accusations made against a Member can be extremely damaging to the reputation, public persona, or character of a Member and should be avoided.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Members of Club, following due debate, discussion and consideration, upon Motion duly made and seconded, duly adopt the following by majority action:

VOTED: To amend the By-Laws of Club, to add new Section # _____, as follows:

I. DEFINITIONS: As used herein, the following words or expressions shall mean:

A. “Minor(s)” - Persons who have not attained the age of 18 years, and are neither the child or ward of (i) a Member; a related family member, guest or invitee of Member; nor, a person “in loco parentis”, and living in the household of a Member. (i.e. Rotary Youth Exchange”).

B. “Vulnerable Person” - An adult, who is disadvantaged by reason of age, or other reasonably apparent mental, emotional or physical impairment, and is unable to rationally and responsibly protect his/her person or financial interest.

C. “Adult” - Any person who is not a “minor”, and who is cognitively capable of rationally and responsibly protecting his/her person or financial interests.

D. “Club Activity” – Any Club endorsed or sponsored activity to which the public is invited and at which “Minors” and/or Vulnerable Persons” are, or are expected to be, in attendance.

E. “Other Words/Phrases” – All other “words and phrases” as used herein shall be given their ordinary and common meaning.

II. MEMBER CONTACT(S) WITH A MINOR - No Portsmouth Rotarian should EVER place him/herself in the position of being in the presence of, or be with a “Minor” of group or Minors who is not either his/her child, family member, OR who is not the legal standing of “in loco parentis”, where presumably other rules and personal safety protocols are already in place, without there being present, in reasonable proximity, another “Member(s)” or another Adult reasonably believed by Member to be a person who will act responsibly in the presence of “Minors”.

III. MEMBER CONTACT(S) WITH VULNERABLE PERSONS - No Portsmouth Rotarian should EVER place him/herself in the position of being in the presence of, or be alone with a “Vulnerable” person, who is not a family member, unless such Rotarian believes that he/she is capable of understanding, managing and performing such acts as may be necessary to the nature of the custodial task(s), without there being present, in reasonable proximity another Member(s); who are reasonably believed by the Member to be person who will act responsibly in the presence of the “Vulnerable Person”.

IV. REPORTING OBLIGATIONS – In general, in New Hampshire, unlike under Federal law, it is not a crime to conceal, even actively, mere knowledge of the commission of a crime. However, for example, NH RSA 169-C:29, “Child Protection Act”, as may be hereafter amended or replaced by a substantially similar statute with similar purpose, obligates reporting the abuse or neglect of a child (“Minor”) when there is any reason to believe that a child has been abused or neglected, under circumstances which indicate that the child’s health or welfare is harmed or threatened with harm. (See attached.)

Rotarians should become familiar with such standards of reporting, and, should a Rotarian involved in a Club Activity become aware of the abuse or neglect of a Minor, then such Rotarian must seriously consider the extent to which such knowledge obligates them to report the circumstances to a local law enforcement agency, or the N.H.ICAC task force at (603) 610-7409. Failure to report may subject the non-reporting Rotarian to both criminal and civil liability. Reports made in “good faith”, immunize the reporter from “any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed.” (See attached.)

While the legal definition of “Vulnerable Person” and the reporting obligations are less clear, should any Rotarian involved in a Club Activity become aware of abuse, neglect or harm being directed toward a “Vulnerable Person”, such Rotarian may consider it necessary to advise their local law enforcement agency of the circumstances or situation.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2011.

Attest:

Rotary Club of Portsmouth New
Hampshire

By:

Its _____,

Secretary

Attachments: NH RSA 169-C:29 et seq-