



## YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY

3 March 2022

Developing and implementing an effective youth protection policy demonstrates this Rotary Club's commitment to protecting Rotary youth program participants.

### 1. Statement of Conduct for Working with Youth

The Rotary Club to End Human Trafficking strives to create and maintain a safe environment for all youth who participate in Rotary activities. To the best of their ability, Rotarians, Rotarians' spouses and partners, and other volunteers must safeguard the children and young people they come in contact with and protect them from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.

### 2. Definitions

**Volunteer** — Any adult involved with Rotary youth activities who interacts directly with youth, whether supervised or unsupervised

**Youth program participant** — Anyone who participates in a Rotary youth program, whether child or adult

### 3. Incorporation and Liability Insurance

The       district/district youth program(s)       is part of a separate legal entity known as                     . This entity has been formed under the laws of the state/province/country of                      on                      and is valid at this time.

The       district/district youth program(s)       carries liability insurance with appropriate coverage and policy limits. This policy protects the organization from third-party claims and lawsuits alleging negligence by the organization, its employees, or its volunteers.

### 4. Club Compliance

The district governor is responsible for supervision and control of all youth activities in the district, including those associated with Rotary Youth Exchange. District 5950 will monitor all participating clubs and ensure that they comply with youth protection and Rotary Youth Exchange certification requirements.

## **5. Volunteer Selection and Screening**

All Rotarian and non-Rotarian volunteers interested in working with youth program participants must meet RI and district eligibility requirements. RI prohibits the membership and participation of any volunteer who has admitted to, been convicted of, or otherwise been found to have engaged in sexual abuse or harassment.

If a person is accused of sexual abuse or harassment and the law enforcement investigation is inconclusive, or if law enforcement declines to investigate, additional safeguards are necessary to protect any youth program participants with whom the accused may have future contact, as well as the accused. A person later cleared of charges may apply to be reinstated as a youth program volunteer. Reinstatement is not a right, and reinstatement to his or her former position is not guaranteed.

## **6. Training**

District 5950 and member clubs may provide youth-protection training and information on youth programs. The District Trainer will conduct the training sessions.

## **7 . Allegation Handling and Follow-Through**

District 5950 takes all allegations of abuse or harassment seriously and will handle them in accordance with the Abuse and Harassment Allegation Reporting Guidelines.

The district will cooperate with all law enforcement agencies, child protective services, and legal investigations and will not interfere with official investigations when conducting its own independent review.

District 5950 may appoint a youth protection officer or district review committee to evaluate and review files, policies, and allegations regularly.

## **8. Travel by Youth**

Youth travel outside of the local community must comply with youth protection policies.

For all youth travel sponsored by District 5950 or its clubs, the following will be done before departure:

- Obtain written permission from the parents or legal guardians of program participants
- Give parents and legal guardians details about the travel, including locations, accommodations, itineraries, and the organizer's contact information
- When traveling more than 150 miles, or 240 kilometers, from the residence, verify that program participants have adequate insurance, including benefits for medical services, emergency medical evacuation, repatriation of remains, and legal liability

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL'S STATEMENT OF CONDUCT FOR WORKING WITH YOUTH**

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*Adopted by the RI Board of Directors, November 2006*