

ROTARY CODE OF POLICIES | YOUTH PROTECTION AND TRAVEL EXCERPTS | (January

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**ROTARY CODE OF POLICIES**

**Youth Protection and Youth Travel Policy Excerpts**

**Containing Board Decisions through January 2017**

This document is provided as a reference regarding youth protection and travel by youth

involved in Rotary programs. Please refer to the most current version of the Rotary Code of

Policies for additional information about these important topics. Changes made by the Rotary

International Board of Directors to the Rotary Code of Policies override policy as stated in this

reference document.

**2.100.1. STATEMENT OF CONDUCT FOR WORKING WITH YOUTH**

Rotary International strives to create and maintain a safe environment for all youth who

participate in Rotary activities. To the best of their ability, Rotarians, Rotarians’ spouse, and

partners, and other volunteers must safeguard the children and young people they come into

contact with and protect them from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.

**2.100.2. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH YOUTH PROTECTION LAWS**

Upon obtaining information that a club has failed to address an allegation against a member in

connection with a Rotary-related youth program for violating applicable law regarding the

protection of youth, the board may suspend or terminate the membership of the club in

accordance with RI Bylaws section 3.030.5.

**2.100.3. SEXUAL ABUSE AND HARASSMENT PREVENTION**

All Rotarians, clubs and districts should follow the statement of conduct for working with youth

and RI guidelines for abuse and harassment prevention established by the general secretary. The

guidelines include the following requirements:

1. RI has a zero-tolerance policy against abuse and harassment.

2. An independent and thorough investigation must be made into any claims of sexual

abuse or harassment.

3. Any adult involved in a Rotary youth program against whom an allegation of sexual

abuse or harassment is made must be removed from all contact with youth until the matter

is resolved.

4. Any allegation of abuse must be immediately reported to the appropriate law

enforcement agency, in accordance with RI’s zero-tolerance policy.

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5. All allegations of abuse or harassment shall be reported by the district to RI within 72

hours of the time a district officer learns of the incident. Districts must identify a

person within the district who will be responsible for reporting to RI.

6. A club must terminate the membership of any Rotarian who admits to, is convicted of

or is otherwise found to have engaged in sexual abuse or harassment. A non-Rotarian who

admits to, is convicted of, or is otherwise found to have engaged in sexual abuse or

harassment must be prohibited from working with youth in a Rotary context. A club may

not grant membership to a person who is known to have engaged in sexual abuse or

harassment. (Upon obtaining information that a club has knowingly failed to terminate

the membership of such a Rotarian, the RI Board will take steps to have the Rotarian’s

membership terminated, including action to terminate the club’s charter for failure to

comply).

7. If an investigation into a claim of sexual abuse or harassment is inconclusive, then, for

the safety of youth participants and the protection of the accused, additional safeguards

must be put in place to assure the protection of any youth with whom the individual may

have future contact. If there are subsequent claims of sexual abuse or harassment, the

adult shall be permanently prohibited from working with youth in a Rotary context.

Regardless of criminal or civil guilt, the continued presence of the adult could be

detrimental to the reputation of the organization and could be harmful to youth. It can

also benefit the adult in preventing additional accusations from other youth. A person

who is accused but later cleared of charges, may apply to be reinstated to participate in

youth programs. Reinstatement is not a right, and no guarantee is made that he or she

will be reinstated to his or her former position.

**2.100.4. TRAVEL AND OVERNIGHT STAYS BY YOUTH**

Recognizing that Rotary clubs and districts are encouraged to undertake activities that

develop youth club and district programs or activities that involve minors undertaking

travel outside their local community, or that include overnight stays, must develop,

maintain, and comply with youth protection policies and written procedures. With the

exception of travel and tours operated by or on behalf of host districts, Youth Exchange

travel is subject to the policies outlined in Rotary Code of Policies 41.060.12.

The governor has the responsibility for the supervision and control of all programs and

activities organized within the district that involve minors traveling outside their local

community or involve overnight stays.

Clubs and districts:

1. shall obtain written permission from the parents or guardians of all youth participants

for travel outside the local community or involve overnight stays in advance;

2. shall provide parents or legal guardians with specific details about the program,

location of event, travel itineraries, sleeping accommodations, and contact

information for program organizers before departure;

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3. should, when traveling 150 miles away from home residence or out of home country,

require the parents or legal guardians of each minor to provide travel insurance for the

minor, which includes such coverages as medical (when traveling outside home

country), emergency medical evacuation, repatriation of remains, and legal liability,

in amounts satisfactory to the club or district organizing the activity or event, with

coverage from the time of the minor’s departure from home until the return home.

Club and district policies and procedures should include:

1. volunteer application and screening procedures;

2. outlines of volunteer job descriptions and responsibilities;

3. supervision standards for ratio of adults to minors

4. crisis management plan including:

a. handling medical and other emergencies and providing for adult support;

b. procedures for communicating with parents and legal guardians;

5. written guidelines for reporting and follow-through on allegations or incidents

consistent with RI policy.

**41.010.27 TRAVEL INSURANCE FOR INTERACTORS**

Clubs and districts inviting members of Interact clubs to participate in the programs or activities

of such clubs or districts outside of their local community should, when Interactors are traveling

150 miles away from home residence or out of the home country, require the parents or legal

guardians of each Interactor to provide travel insurance for the Interactor, which includes such

coverages as medical (when traveling outside home country), emergency medical evacuation,

repatriation of remains, and legal liability, in amounts satisfactory to the club or district

organizing the event, with coverage from the time of the Interactors departure from home until

the return home.

**41.060.12 TRAVEL BY YOUTH EXCHANGE STUDENTS**

Youth Exchange students may undertake approved travel with host parents or for Rotary club or

district events. The host district shall obtain written permission from the parents or guardians of

students for travel outside their local community as defined by the host district in advance.

For all other travel, host districts must ensure that parents or legal guardians are provided with

specific details about the program, location, travel itineraries, sleeping accommodations, and

contact information. Tours and travel operated by or on behalf of host districts are subject to the

Rotary Code of Policies section 2.100.4.

**41.060.23 INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL BY YOUTH**

No individual Rotarian, club, or district shall undertake an alternative program structure to send

minors abroad that circumvents RI youth protection policies, the foregoing Youth Exchange

policy, or the immigration and travel policies of any nation or government.

No individual Rotarian, club, or district shall assist or cooperate in sending a young person abroad

on an international travel activity unless careful plans are made in advance covering every aspect

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of the proposed trip, including approval from the district youth protection officer and district

Youth Exchange chair. In districts without a youth protection officer, the district governor and

the district Youth Exchange committee chair must approve the arrangements.

No club should provide an identification card, letter of introduction, request for assistance or

other credential or document intended to identify or introduce a young person to a club or clubs

in another country, unless complete mutual agreement has been reached in advance with respect

to the hospitality or assistance to be provided by the host club.

No club is obliged to provide hospitality or assistance to any young person from another country,

despite any documented or claimed sponsorship of a Rotary club, unless the host club has

specifically agreed in advance to provide such hospitality or assistance.