

# WHAT'S NOT ALLOWED & FEW SUGGESTED BEST PRACTICES

## PROHIBITED (The "NO, NOs")

- **No Unsupervised One-on-One Interactions:** This is a strict RI Mandate. No adult should ever be alone with a youth or at-risk adult.
- **No Private Overnight Stays:** Adults may never share a bed or room with a youth (excluding their own children).
- **No Grooming or Favoritism:** This includes "special" gifts, private "secrets," or treating one individual differently than the group.
- **No "Off-Book" Communication:** Private messaging or social media interaction without parent/guardian inclusion is strictly prohibited.

## RI Best Practices vs. Suggested Guidelines

Category	RI / District Mandates (Required)	Suggested Best Practices (Recommended)
<b>Supervision</b>	Two-Deep Leadership: At least two vetted adults must be present at every Rotary activity.	The "Rule of Three": Aim for three people at all times (e.g., two adults and one youth, or one adult and two youth).
<b>Communication</b>	Transparency: All digital contact must include a parent or a second vetted adult.	Public Channels Only: Use official club platforms or group chats rather than personal cell phone numbers.
<b>Transport</b>	No Solo Transport: An adult cannot drive a youth/at-risk adult alone.	Central Drop-off: Require parents to drop off/pick up at a public location to avoid home visits.
<b>Environment</b>	Visibility: Meetings must be observable (open doors or windows).	Public Spaces: Whenever possible, hold meetings in high-traffic areas (libraries, cafes, community centers).
<b>Physicality</b>	Zero Inappropriate Contact: Strictly follow the Statement of Conduct.	The "Handshake Rule": Limit physical contact to professional gestures like handshakes or high-fives.

## The "Why" Behind the Distinction

The Mandates are designed to prevent abuse and meet legal/insurance requirements. The Suggested Best Practices are designed to protect you, the Rotarian. Following the "Rule of Three," for example, ensures that there is always a witness present to prevent false allegations and maintain the professional integrity of our service.

Important Reminder: If your club's activities change and you move from "Exempt" to "Active" status with youth or at-risk adults, you must immediately contact the District 5450 Youth Protection Officer to complete full background checks and training.

