



# Youth Protection

## District 7430 Youth Programs





# Youth Protection Session

- The Role & Responsibility of Club
- District / RI Policies
- What does the policy require?
- Defining Harassment and abuse
- Harassment and abuse - What do you do?
- Who is a volunteer?
- Process and Documentation
  - who, background checks, home visits and more..
- Responsibilities



# Statement of Conduct for Working with Youth

*Rotary International is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all participants in Rotary activities. It is the duty of all Rotarians, Rotarians' spouses, partners, and other volunteers to safeguard to the best of their ability the welfare of and to prevent the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of children and young people with whom they come into contact.*



# *Prevention Tools*

- Policy
- Selection and screening
- Training
- Support and communication
- Program participants



# Defining Abuse

- Engaging in implicit or explicit sexual acts with a student.
- Inappropriate Physical Contact
- Forcing or encouraging a student to engage in sexual acts alone or with another person. These include (not limited to):
  - ✓ non-touching offenses
  - ✓ indecent exposure
  - ✓ exposing a child to sexual or pornographic material



# Defining Harassment

- Sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, verbal or physical conduct of sexual nature.
- Often a technique to desensitize the victim. Examples include:
  - ✓ sexual advances and jokes
  - ✓ comments about sexual activity
  - ✓ verbal abuse of a sexual nature
  - ✓ displaying sexual explicit objects
  - ✓ sexual leering or whistling
  - ✓ inappropriate physical contact (brushing, etc.)



# Recognizing Abuse and Harassment

The signs of abuse and harassment are often the same as other problems.

Watch for:

- Sudden changes in behavior
- Clusters of symptoms
- Drop off in school performance



# Signs of Harassment or Abuse

- Any physical signs of abuse, such as a repeated pattern of injury or an accident or which the explanation doesn't fit the injury
- Changes of behavior, extreme mood swings, withdrawal, fearfulness, or excessive crying
- Fear of certain places, people, or activities; reluctance to be left alone with a particular person
- High levels of anxiety
- Distorted body image, including or resulting in eating disorders, self mutilation, or other related behaviors
- Diminished self-esteem
- Overly aggressive behavior
- Unwillingness to participate in extracurricular activities; difficulties at school
- Repression
- Poor peer relationships; isolation
- Nightmares or night terrors
- Graphic or age-inappropriate knowledge of sex or sexual behavior
- Suicide attempts or gestures
- Obsessive behaviors
- Self-medicating through drug or alcohol abuse
- Problems with authority or rules





# Responding to an Allegation

1. Receiving a report
2. Immediate response
3. Follow-through



# Youth Support System

- District Governor
- District Youth Protection Officer
- District Chair for Youth Program
- Club President
- Club Rotarian / counselor
- Club Advisor
- Parents
- Students



# Youth Protection Officer Responsibilities

- Develop & Implement Policy
- Training
- Tracking & Documentation
- Contact to Receive Reports of Incidents (Hotline)
- Support Student – Removal, Provide Services
- Notify District Committee & Governor & RI



# Club/Rotary Counselor Roles & Responsibilities

- Safety & Security of Student
- Secure Environment
  - Securing Volunteers
  - Orientation of Volunteers
  - Criminal Background Checks
- Support for Club & Students
  - Visits ... to projects & meetings
  - Arrangements and transportation assistance as needed
  - YPO... Tracking Form / Documentation
  - Changing/adding volunteers, reporting and getting new documentation



# Club Responsibilities

- Train / Enforce Policy with Volunteers
- Safety & Security of Student
- Secure environment
- Support Student
- Criminal Background Checks
- Report / Document



# Action/Reporting - Harassment

- Meet with the student, gather facts
  - Stay Calm, do not interrogate, record facts for reporting
- Protect the Student
- Contact Youth Protection Officer (YPO) and District Governor
- Determine Next Steps



# Action/Reporting - Abuse

- Safeguard Student
- Contact Law Enforcement
- Support Student's Needs
- Contact YPO & Governor
- Investigation Handled by Law Enforcement



# What Does the Policy Require?

- District Youth Protection Officer (YPO)
- Training for...  
Students, Advisors, Counselors, Volunteers
- Volunteer Applications, return to club or YPO
- Background Checks (which requires Waiver)
- Documentation, Document Retention  
(by club / YPO)





# Who is a Volunteer?

“Any adult involved with Rotary Youth Exchange who has direct interaction with students.”

- District Committee Members
- Club Counselors
- Club Advisor (*many times non-Rotarian*)
- Club Members that are regularly participating in Youth Programs
- Others?

Does not mean “adults with only occasional group contact with students and would not be in one on one contact at any time.



# Process and Documentation

## Volunteers & Host Families

Any 18+ adult with one-on-one contact with student

- **Youth Volunteer Application & Waiver**
- **Certification of criminal background check**



# Resources

- District Counselor and Host Family Handbook
- RI Youth Protection Training Guide (775en)
- Ineract & Rotaract sections of [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) website
- Training at District Meetings
- District “Youth Program” Committee
- District YPO



# Abuse and Harassment Prevention **TRAINING MANUAL and LEADER'S GUIDE**

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# IMPORTANT

To verify you have reviewed this presentation and understand the policies and procedures and agree to abide by these, please send an email by clicking or copying the link below to notify the District Youth Protection Officer you have completed reviewing these slides. The YPO will then update the District Youth Protection Database to indicate you have been through training.

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