

DISTRICT 7070 YOUTH AND VULNERABLE PERSONS PROTECTION POLICY V3

NOVEMBER 2020

Purpose of this Policy: Rotary Clubs in District 7070 place a great emphasis on their work with people in the community, including Youth and other Vulnerable Persons. Developing and implementing an effective Youth and Vulnerable Persons Protection Policy demonstrates District 7070's commitment to protecting Youth and Vulnerable participants in Rotary events and programs.

ARTICLE ONE - DEFINITIONS

1.01 These definitions apply to all of this policy:

"District 7070" means Rotary International District 7070 Incorporated;

"District 7070 Event" means a limited time event run by District 7070 including, without limitation, District Assembly, District annual conference, Rotary Foundation Walk and Rotary Aids Poker Walk;

"District 7070 Program" means any District 7070 Event and any District 7070 program run by District 7070 from time to time, including, without limitation, Youth Exchange, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) and Interact;

"District Governor" means the person appointed to be District Governor for District 7070 from time to time;

"District Insurance Policy" means a group insurance program arranged by District 7070 and paid for by the Rotary Clubs, which covers the District and all clubs, directors, officers, members and Volunteers in the District with coverages determined from time to time by District 7070;

"Policy for Prevention of Abuse and Harassment" means the District 7070 Policy for Prevention of Abuse and Harassment approved by District 7070 from time to time;

"Rotarians" means members of Rotary Clubs and members of Rotaract Clubs in District 7070;

"Rotary Clubs" means any or all of the Rotary and Rotaract Clubs in District 7070 from time to time;

"Rotary Club Program" or **"Rotary Club Event"** means any program or event run by a Rotary Club within District 7070;

"Rotary Person of Authority" means any Rotarian in District 7070 who volunteers to work/help in a Rotary Program where they will be placed in a position of authority or trust relative to Youth and/or a Vulnerable Person and to whom, the Rotarian may owe a duty of care;

“Rotary Program” means any program or event or activity run by a Rotary Club within District 7070 or by District 7070;

“Volunteer” Any adult engaged in a Rotary activity who interacts directly with Youth and/or a Vulnerable Person, whether or not that Youth and/or Vulnerable Person is supervised by another person, including, without limitation volunteers, as defined under the District 7070 Youth Exchange Policies and Procedures;

“Vulnerable Person” means:

- (a) Any person under the age of 18 years defined as Youth hereafter; and/or
- (b) Any person aged 18 years or over who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness, and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm; and/or
- (c) a person who, because of their age, disability or other circumstances, whether temporary or permanent, are:
 - (i) in a position of dependence on others; and/or
 - (ii) at a greater risk than the general population of being harmed by a person in a position of authority or trust;

“Vulnerable Sector Searches” on a Rotarian or Volunteer (the “Searchee”) means a form of police reference check conducted by the local Police Department in the municipality where the Searchee resides;

“Youth” means any person less than 18 years of age;

“Youth and Vulnerable Persons Protection Officer” means a person appointed by the District Governor from time to time whose role is to foster safe operations across all District 7070 Events and Programs involving Youth and Vulnerable Persons;

“Youth Exchange” means a District 7070 Program, operated under Rotary International, in accordance with the District 7070 Youth Exchange Policies and Procedures; and

“Youth Exchange Policies and Procedures” means the District 7070 Youth Exchange Policies and Procedures approved by District 7070 from time to time.

ARTICLE TWO – STATEMENT OF CONDUCT

2.01 District 7070 and all Rotary Clubs within, strive to create and maintain a safe environment for all Youth and Vulnerable Persons who participate in Rotary Programs. To the best of their ability, all Rotarians, Rotarians’ spouses and partners, and other Rotaract and Rotary Club members and all Volunteers SHALL safeguard Youth and Vulnerable Persons they come into contact with and protect them from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, and they agree to comply with this policy and the Policy for Prevention of Abuse and Harassment.

ARTICLE THREE - LIABILITY INSURANCE

3.01 District 7070 has arranged a District Insurance Policy. These policies protect District 7070 and its member Rotary Clubs from claims by third parties alleging negligence by District 7070 or by a Rotary Club or Rotaract Club, club members, volunteers, or employees.

ARTICLE FOUR – DISTRICT 7070 PROGRAMS

4.01 The District Governor of District 7070 is responsible for supervision and control of all **District 7070 Programs**. District 7070 will implement, from time to time, additional policies as required, related to the protection of any Youth and any Vulnerable Person Participants in the District 7070 Programs and District 7070 Events and will monitor and ensure that all participating Rotary Clubs comply with said policies.

4.02 Notwithstanding the above, all Rotarian, Rotaractors and non-Rotarian Volunteers interested in working with Youth and Vulnerable Person participants must meet Rotary International ("RI") and District 7070 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 District 7070 Program or Event and 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 Volunteer. Reinstatement is not a right, and reinstatement to his or her former position is not guaranteed.

4.04 With respect to **Youth Exchange**, all participants shall comply with the requirements contained herein and in the Youth Exchange Policies and Procedures.

4.05 With respect to a **District 7070 Event and District 7070 Program**, each Rotary Club participating and registering Youth and/or other Vulnerable Persons, SHALL ensure that they have received a signed parental consent form for each and every registered Youth and/or other Vulnerable Person, in the form attached as Schedule "A" and as amended by District 7070 from time to time. The primary contact on the Parental Consent form shall be a member of the registering Rotary Club.

4.06 All District 7070 Programs shall comply with the **Policy for Prevention of Abuse and Harassment**.

ARTICLE FIVE - ALLEGATION HANDLING AND FOLLOW-THROUGH

5.01 District 7070 takes all allegations of abuse or harassment seriously and will handle them in accordance with the Abuse and Harassment Allegation Reporting Guidelines (RI) and the **Policy for Prevention of Abuse and Harassment**.

5.02 District 7070 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.

5.03 District 7070 SHALL appoint a Youth and Vulnerable Sector Protection Officer who shall appoint a District 7070 review committee to evaluate and review files, policies, and allegations regularly.

ARTICLE SIX - TRAVEL BY YOUTH

6.01 Youth travel outside of the local community must comply with ALL District 7070 youth protection policies. For all Youth travel sponsored by District 7070 or its Rotary 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.

ARTICLE SEVEN – ROTARY CLUB PROGRAMS/EVENTS

7.01 Each Rotary Club Program/Event shall be operated in accordance with the policies of District 7070 as set out from time to time and in accordance with the provisions of this Policy.

7.02 in order to protect all Rotary Club Program and Events participants and in order to protect all Rotarian and non-Rotarian Volunteers, it is recommended that each Rotary Club annually evaluate their Programs to consider whether any of their Programs include Youth and/or Vulnerable Persons, and when a Rotarian is a Rotary Person of Authority for Youth and/or a Vulnerable Person and what steps the Club should take in order to both protect the Rotary Club, its members and Volunteers, and to protect the participating Youth and/or Vulnerable Persons.

7.03 In this regard, it is recommended that ALL of the Rotary Clubs, who operate any Rotary Club Programs/Events involving Youth and/or Vulnerable Persons, implement Vulnerable Sector Policies, as set out in sub clause 7.04 hereafter.

7.04 District 7070 recommends that each and every Rotary Club implement a Vulnerable Sector Policy using the suggested step by step approach as set out in Schedule "B" attached hereto, to assist in the implementation of said policy.

7.05 District 7070 recommends that ALL of the Rotary Clubs, who operate any Rotary Club Programs/Events involving Youth and/or Vulnerable Persons, implement Vulnerable Sector Searches against participating Rotarians and other Volunteers.

7.06 District 7070 recommends that ALL of the Rotary Clubs, who operate any Rotary Club Programs/Events involving Youth and/or Vulnerable Persons, appoint a Club Protection Officer whose role will be to:

- Be familiar with District 7070 and Rotary International Policies and procedures with respect to Youth and Vulnerable Persons
- Direct the implementation and up-dating of Club policies related to Vulnerable persons from time to time
- Deal with allegation or disclosures if any
- Raise awareness within the Club of procedures and direct training as required

ARTICLE EIGHT – DISTRICT TRAINING

8.01 District 7070 shall set up a program (in person and/or online and/or webcast) from time to time as required, to offer training for Rotary Clubs who run Rotary Club programs dealing with the Vulnerable Sector. As determined by the District Youth Officer, a Committee can be set up to deal with issues involving Vulnerable Persons, said committee to review the policies from time to time and to be a resource for the Rotary Clubs with issues related to Vulnerable Persons. In addition, the Committee shall develop a training schedule that specifies who will be trained, how often and how.

SCHEDULE "A"
**PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION TO ATTEND EVENTS RUN BY
 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 7070 INCORPORATED ("ROTARY
 DISTRICT 7070) FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 20__ TO JUNE 30, 20__**

Name of Interactor/Youth: _____	(Please print clearly)
Member of Interact Club of _____	(if applicable)
Age at July 1, 20__ - _____	Date of Birth _____

NATURE OF ACTIVITY: ATTENDING ROTARY DISTRICT 7070 EVENTS HELD BETWEEN JULY 1, 20__ AND JUNE 30, 20__

To Parents and/or Guardians:

Rotary International District 7070 Incorporated runs certain events from time to time. Interactors and other Youth will be invited to attend these events. More information about Rotary District 7070 and these events can be found at <https://www.rotary7070.org/> The purpose of this form is to inform you about these events and to seek your support and permission for your child/ward to attend any or all of these events.

Events: These events include, the District Foundation Walk (usually in September), the District 7070 Conference (usually in late October), the Rotary Aids Poker Walk (usually in April) and District 7070 Assembly (usually in May). There may be other events operated by Rotary International District 7070 Incorporated and notifications and details will be sent out.

Itinerary

- Each Interactor/Youth will have to get themselves to and from the Event
- Each Interactor/Youth can then attend any of the events consented to below

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL'S 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, Rotarian's spouses 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.

There will be ____ designated Rotarians with cell phones who will be available if problems arise. The primary contact at the District 7070 event is either

_____ (name of responsible Rotarian) cell: _____ **OR**
 _____ (name of responsible Rotarian) cell: _____.

<p>YES - I/we give permission for the Interactor/Youth named above, to attend events run by Rotary District 7070 including, the District 7070 Foundation Walk, the District 7070 Conference, the Rotary Aids Poker Walk and District 7070 Assembly</p> <p>Emergency Contact: _____</p> <p>Emergency Phone Number: _____</p> <p>Name of Parent/Guardian _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(printed name of parent/guardian)</p> <p>Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p>
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SCHEDULE "B"

How to set up a Vulnerable Sector Club Policy

Examples of Vulnerable Persons

- Persons under age 18 (ie Youth)
- Senior with health issues
- Persons with disabilities (whether mental or physical)
- Persons under the influence of drugs/alcohol, etc
- Persons being controlled by another to their detriment
- an individual aged 18 years and above who is or may be unable to take care of themselves, or is unable to protect themselves against harm or exploitation by reason of age, illness, trauma or disability, or any other reason

Questions for Clubs to ask

1) What does the Rotary Club do involving Vulnerable Persons that might require a policy?

- interaction with Vulnerable Persons at events, club meetings etc
- driving Vulnerable Persons to and from either Club or District 7070 events
- overnight District 7070 or Club events (district conferences, etc.)
- contact with parents of the Youth or guardians of Vulnerable Persons
- Youth Exchange
- Rotary Club Programs where a Club Member is a Volunteer for Vulnerable Persons and could be considered to be a Rotary Person of Authority

If yes to any of #1, then how do we protect our Club members and the Vulnerable Sector and what should be some of the items that we put in our policy?

2) Training

- If dealing with Youth, review the Rotary International Youth Protection guide (do we require that everyone read it, do we hold a special session on it once per year, etc)
- If dealing with Youth, do we require that everyone take the online RI course Protecting Youth Program Participants or do it with the club once per year, etc
- District Youth and Vulnerable Sector Protection Officer - consult with him/her to determine any other Rotary International Requirements
- Review District 7070 Policy for Prevention of Abuse and Harassment annually
- Implement Rotary Club Policy for Prevention of Abuse and Harassment

3) **Driving Youth and Vulnerable Persons**

- can you be the sole adult in the car??
- if require 2 drivers, how do we work that out??

4) **Overnights and other events**

- are parental/guardian consents required
- designated chaperone?
- any other rules

(5) **Searches**

(a) ***What types of searches could be conducted against our membership to protect the Club from liability?***

- what types of searches are available (eg vulnerable sector search)
- what does District recommend/require? (recommend searches)
- does the insurance policy/agents make recommendations?
- what type of searches would work best for our club?

(b) ***With respect to searches, once the type of search is determined, then:***

- when are searches conducted (ie before admission to club as a member and every year thereafter, etc)
- who pays the cost
- who is in charge of the searches
- how often are the searches done against each member (usually every 3-5 years but TDSB requires it every year)
- do we accept searches done on a member for other organizations?
- who orders the search?
- who can see the results?
- who keeps the records?
- what if there is a black mark on the search? - who sees it and who determines how it affects what the member is able to do with youth?