

## **2.110. Youth Protection**

### **2.110.1. 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. *(November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 72)*

Source: November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 98; *Amended by* November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 72

### **2.110.2. 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 3.030.4. *(June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226)*

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

### **2.110.3. 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.
5. 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).

6. 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. *(November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 72)*

Source: November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108; Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 72

#### 2.110.4. Travel by Youth

Recognizing that Rotary clubs and districts are encouraged to undertake activities that develop the New Generations, club and district programs or activities that involve minors undertaking travel outside their local community 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 41.060.11.

Clubs and districts:

1. shall obtain written permission from the parents or guardians of all youth participants for travel outside the local community 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;
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. (*June 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 210*)

Source: January 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 155; June 2010 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 210

2.110.5. Participation of Minors at Official RI and TRF Meetings

RI youth protection policies required of Rotary clubs and districts shall also apply to the International Assembly, the RI convention, and host organization committee activities, and to all official RI and TRF meetings. (*November 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 28*)

Source: June 2009 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 244