# Youth Protection Guidelines trainers guide

## Notes about facilitating a training session

### Training format

Training consists of a presentation (with the aid of PowerPoint where available). During the session, participants will be encouraged to ask questions and participate in discussion. Participants can also be given a worksheet to fill out during the session. If you do not have PowerPoint capabilities at your session, you may want to print out the PowerPoint slides (using the “handout” format option) and give one full set to each participant.

### Suggested materials

- Kiwanis Youth Protection Guidelines PowerPoint presentation (or a copy of the PowerPoint slides for each participant)
- A copy of the Kiwanis Youth Protection Guidelines for each participant
- A copy of the Kiwanis Youth Protection Guidelines training guide and member resource for each participant

### About this guide

This guide was created to assist with a training session regarding the Kiwanis Youth Protection Guidelines at a Kiwanis club or at a Kiwanis district convention or conference.

Treat the regular type as a script or outline for your presentation. The italicized text was created as side notes for the trainer.

### Choosing a facilitator

Who might make a good presenter? Here are some possibilities:

- Someone who has worked professionally with youth, or has significant nonprofessional experience working with youth
- A teacher or professional facilitator
- A law enforcement officer
- A social worker

### Facilitation tips

- Some of this training deals with sensitive subject matter. Be aware that such issues may affect some of the participants emotionally.
- If you aren’t sure of the answer to a question from a participant, reply that you will look into the matter and follow up with them. Contact member services ([memberservices@kiwanis.org](mailto:memberservices@kiwanis.org)) at the Kiwanis International office. Make sure to follow up with the answers, as promised.
- There are many Web links provided during this training. If you
### Kiwanis Youth Protection Guidelines

**Kiwanis Youth Protection Guidelines**

**Training for Kiwanis-club members**

**Date here**

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**Getting started**

*Introduce yourself. If appropriate and time allows, ask the club or group members to introduce themselves. If the host facility is new to the group, point out the restroom locations and any other important information about the facility.*

*You can also give an overview of the training timeframe.*

*Hand out the participant training guide (answer key at the end of this guide).*

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#### Purpose: Why do we need this training?

Kiwanis International is committed to maintaining policies and procedures that create safe places for all Kiwanis members and the youth we serve. There are more than 300,000 members of the Kiwanis youth programs. Almost all Kiwanis clubs sponsor an SLP for youth (Key Club, Builders Club and K-Kids club) and/or do projects with youth.

Parents, guardians, community members and these young people trust that our programs are a safe place for them. If we want to be the premier provider of youth service clubs and programs, we must hold ourselves and our fellow members to the highest standards of conduct and awareness.

Thank you for protecting young people—and the Kiwanians who work with them. You’re strengthening the Kiwanis family’s continuing status as a leader in building the next generation of servant leaders.

*Answer to training guide question 1: 300,000*

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#### Purpose (cont’d)

*Kiwanis should act with the highest standards of care*

And you’re doing it for the best reason of all: It’s the right thing to do.
Training objectives

After completing this training, you should be able to:

- **Understand** Kiwanis International’s Youth Protection Guidelines.
- Make choices and decisions that **protect** you and the youth you serve.
- **Identify** suspected child abuse and troubling behavior.
- Know your responsibilities if you suspect abuse.
- **Respond** appropriately if a child discloses abuse to you or if you witness troubling behavior.

Terms and background

We will start out with some important definitions and background information.

- **Youth Protection Guidelines**: first approved by the Kiwanis International Board of Directors in January 2007. Since then, updates have been made to ensure Kiwanians adhere to the best practices when working with youth. The guidelines protect both our youth and adult members and outline expectations for adults working with people under age 18. **Child abuse**: harm to a child, which occurs immediately or through accumulated effects over a period of time. Did you know: approximately three million cases of child abuse and neglect—involving almost 5.5 million children—are reported each year? We’ll discuss three types of abuse today.
  - **Emotional abuse** is one of the most pervasive and damaging types. It consists of neglecting your child’s needs for emotional support, love and caring. “Emotional abuse that exists independently of other forms of abuse is the most difficult form of child abuse to identify and stop.” (American Humane Association) **Signs include**: reports from the child of emotionally abusive behavior.
  - **Physical abuse** is in some ways the easiest type to understand. **Signs include**: Any injury (bruise, burn, fracture, abdominal or head injury) that cannot be otherwise explained.
  - **Sexual abuse** includes any kind of sexual act or behavior with a child. **Signs include**:
    - Dramatic behavior changes.
    - Physical complaints, such as headaches, stomachaches or genital pain or discomfort that can’t be explained.
    - Fear of a particular person or place, and of being alone with that person or in that place.
    - Overreaction to a question about someone touching him or
- Sudden increase in awareness of and preoccupation with sexual conduct, words and body parts. (May seem hypersexualized and try to get other youth to perform sexual acts.)

Please note: There could be alternative explanations for each of these signs. It can be difficult, but use your best judgment when interpreting what you see and enlist help if necessary (confidentially and with discretion).

- “Troubling behavior”: This term is used in the guidelines. It defines:
  - All forms of child abuse, as described previously.
  - Behavior not in accordance with the Kiwanis Youth Protection Guidelines.
  - Illegal behavior of a youth or adult.
  - Something that causes your internal voice to say: “Something’s not right about this.”

Answer to training guide question 2: 3, 5.5
Answer to training guide question 3: emotional, physical and sexual
Answer to training guide question 4: illegal, something’s not right about this.

The guidelines
There are 12 points in the Youth Protection Guidelines. We will review each guideline to ensure you understand it and how it relates to you. After each guideline, there will be some time for discussion and questions.

Education
The guidelines require that Kiwanis clubs inform and educate their members on the Youth Protection Guidelines. This is why we are here today. Here is what is expected of a Kiwanis club/member:

- A Kiwanis club must inform and educate its members on the Youth Protection Guidelines. This education should occur annually (September is recommended), and a copy of the guidelines must be provided to members. Download them at kiwanis.org/youthprotection.
- At each Kiwanis district convention and conference, an educational forum or workshop should be scheduled to cover the guidelines and the best practices for adults working with youth.
Potential questions
Q: How will this be reported?
A: The Kiwanis club secretary should indicate that the training was completed on the club secretary’s dashboard.

Answer to training guide question 5: d. Every Kiwanis member

Chaperone
Under the Youth Protection Guidelines, a chaperone must be:
- A Kiwanis member, faculty member, parent, legal guardian or person who is in loco parentis (in the place of a parent).
- 21 years of age or older.
- Approved by the school or agency.
- Registered with the school or agency to accompany youth at the specific event.

Possible chaperones include: Kiwanis members, faculty advisors, parents, teachers, staff of a community organization and other volunteers.

Potential questions
Q: Are we chaperones when we volunteer at a school during school hours?
A: No. The youth are under the supervision of the school or agency during those hours.

Answer to training guide question 6: 21

Criminal history background checks
- Kiwanis International is committed to maintaining policies and procedures that create safe clubs for youth to perform service, build character and develop leadership. Beginning in October 2016, all Kiwanis advisors to a Service Leadership Program—which includes Aktion Club, Circle K, Key Club, Builders Club and K-Kids—will be required to have a criminal background check conducted and verified by Kiwanis International. All criminal history background checks will be valid for two years.
- For Kiwanis International-sponsored events, such as Key Club International Convention and Key Leader events, criminal history background checks for adult volunteers must also be conducted and verified by Kiwanis International. The criminal history background checks conducted by Kiwanis International are the same for Kiwanis advisors and those attending Kiwanis
International-sponsored events. These background checks will be valid for two years.

- In addition to criminal history background checks for Kiwanis advisors, Kiwanis clubs are strongly encouraged to ensure confidential background checks for all club members who will be working directly with youth and have not already undergone a background check.

- **If this training is taking place at a club meeting:** Your club should have a policy about background checks. Review that policy at this time.

- **If this training is at a district convention, review the following:** Kiwanis recommends you first develop a club policy before you implement background checks. The best practices for developing a policy can be found at kiwanisone.org/backgroundchecks. We recommend the club leadership (and all members) check this out. *If you have an Internet connection, go to that Web page.*

### Potential questions

**Q:** Who is required to have clear criminal history background checks?

**A:** Kiwanis advisors to SLP clubs, **and** adults attending Kiwanis International sponsored events.

**Q:** What are the reporting requirements for background checks?

**A:** These should be reported in your club secretary’s monthly report to Kiwanis International.

**Q:** What are the consequences to a club that either neglects to or refuses to have a background check performed on its member?

**A:** For the time being, there are no direct consequences to a club. However, since Kiwanis International is the club’s liability insurance carrier, should an incident occur, failure to comply with this policy could ultimately affect cost of such coverage in the long term.

**Q:** Is the club’s Kiwanis International liability coverage affected if there is not a clear background check on the SLP advisor?

**A:** No, the coverage is not affected, but long-term costs of such coverage for the organization overall could rise if we have claims that could have been prevented by a background check.

**Q:** What protects the club/district officers from being held personally responsible if there is a breach or misconduct with the data collected?

**A:** The Directors and Officers Insurance (D&O) provides protection for directors, officers, committee chairpersons and other members for
**Kiwanis**

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<th>liability arising from the performance of their duties that may result in claims. Information about this coverage can be found at <a href="http://kiwanisone.org/liability">kiwanisone.org/liability</a>.</th>
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Answer to training guide question 7: **True**

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**Overnight stays**

On overnight events, adequate adult chaperoning is required *(refer to earlier definition of chaperone, if needed)*. Adequate chaperoning requires:

- One adult male for each ten (or part of ten) youth males.
- One adult female for each ten (or part of ten) youth females.

How many adults are required in each of the following situations? *(Present these one at a time and take responses from the group.)*

- 15 youth girls and 8 youth boys
  - Answer: 2 adult females and 1 adult male
- 11 youth girls and 11 youth boys
  - Answer: 2 adult females and 2 adult males
- 2 youth girls and 5 youth boys
  - Answer: 1 adult female and 1 adult male

Adults and children should sleep in separate rooms. Potential exceptions:

- A parent sharing a sleeping room with his or her own child
- Sleeping quarters with multiple beds, such as a bunkhouse or camp cabin (in this case, adults may share the sleeping quarters with youth members of the same gender if two or more adults are present)

**Potential questions**

Q: What if a youth’s parent/guardian has given permission for the youth to sleep in a room with another parent?

A: Such permission should only be accepted as written permission. The adult in attendance should then be treated as being in loco parentis.

Answer to training guide question 8: **1, 10**

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**Transportation**

When transporting youth, the best practice is the “rule of three”—at least three people in the car at all times, along with documented approval from a parent or guardian for the transportation arrangements.
Transportation

- Rule of three
- Written approval from parent/guardian
- Follow all local law and school policies

Follow all local laws and school policies regarding transportation of youth. Before you plan, do your research—and ask the school about its policies.

Answer to training guide question 9: three, two

Medication

A youth must have written permission from the parent/guardian to possess either non-prescription or prescription medication at an event.

An adult may not give a youth medication. This includes over-the-counter medication such as aspirin.

If a youth anticipates needing over-the-counter medication, he or she must bring it with them—along with the parent/guardian’s written permission. A sample permission form is available at kiwanis.org/youthprotection.

Make sure youth members know this requirement—so they can be prepared if they anticipate the need for such medication at an event.

Answer to training guide question 10: False

Use of Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco, Marijuana, and Other Substances

While attending any Kiwanis event that is produced primarily by or for the benefit of youth, adults are expected to refrain from using or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and/or marijuana products, even if prescribed for medicinal use. In addition, the use and/or possession of illegal drugs or the improper/illegal use of legal drugs is prohibited.

Potential questions
Q: Is there any appropriate place for an adult to smoke?
A: The event leadership can designate a space, but it must be completely separate from the event.

Q: What is an example of the improper use of legal drugs?
A: Using a prescription drug that is not prescribed to you or providing your own prescription drug to someone else.

Answer to training guide question 11: Never
The next guideline is about reporting troubling behavior. If you observe or suspect any troubling behavior, you must report it to the appropriate personnel at the event—and to emergency services personnel, if appropriate. In addition, if you learn of troubling behavior after an event has occurred, you must report it.

You must follow all local, state, provincial and federal laws regarding reporting. Let’s clarify what all of this means.

- First, what is “troubling behavior”? As defined earlier, it consists of:
  - All forms of child abuse as described previously.
  - Behavior not in accordance with the Kiwanis Youth Protection Guidelines.
  - Illegal behavior of a youth or adult.
  - Something that causes your internal voice to say: “Something’s not right about this.”

- If you observe troubling behavior at an event, you must report it immediately to the appropriate person at the event. The “appropriate” person is the person in charge of that specific event, or a person in a position of authority at the site or school. Here are some examples of event types. We’ll look at each one and then discuss the appropriate person to report to. *(Read the situations one at a time, and ask for responses from the group after each one.)*
  - **SLP club meeting:** Faculty advisor, guidance counselor, school principal/facility executive director
  - **Key Club district convention:** Club/Kiwanis advisor or district administrator
  - **Offsite service project:** Faculty advisor or school guidance counselor
  - **Event/function attended by Kiwanis club and SLP club:** Event coordinator
  - **Overnight event sponsored by Kiwanis International:** Event coordinator

- In determining whether emergency services personnel should be called to the scene immediately, let’s first look at the definition of “emergency.” For our purposes, an emergency is a situation in which the health or safety of those present is being immediately threatened. Emergency services personnel should be called in such a situation. If the situation poses no *immediate* danger and involves suspected child abuse, call the appropriate local authorities (we will discuss how to determine who the
### Reporting

#### In short:
1. "Reasonable person standard.
2. If participants or chaperones are not in immediate danger, contact school personnel first.

Finally we’ll take a look at legal policies for reporting suspected abuse, and who to call in such situations:

- In 48 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, members of designated professions are mandated by law to report child maltreatment. Individuals designated as mandatory reporters typically have frequent contact with children.
- Typically, a report must be made when the reporter, in his or her official capacity, suspects a child has been abused or neglected.
- If you need help in determining whether a call to authorities is necessary, or if you are looking for the appropriate local authorities to call, the **National Child Abuse Hotline** is a great resource. *(If you have an Internet connection, display website)*
  - 1-800-4-A-CHILD / 1-800-422-4453
  - childhelp.org/pages/hotline-home
  - Available in U.S. and Canada—also in Puerto Rico, Guam and U.S. Virgin Islands.
  - The hotline can provide further information on reporting known or suspected abuse, and what to expect during the reporting process.
  - The website also includes a listing of local hotline reporting numbers for Child Protective Services in all U.S. states.

**Personal information**

*Answer to training guide question 12: emergency services personnel, person in charge of the event.*
**Personal information**

- Keep at least 3 years
- Keep it confidential
- When destroying, shred to keep confidentiality

This guideline refers to any document that has information about youth participants (including, but not limited to: registration forms, medical information forms and permission-to-treat forms).

Here is what you should do with these forms:
- Protect the information—treat the documents as confidential.
- Keep each one for a minimum of 3 years (but refer to your local state/provincial law).
- When documents can be destroyed, they must be shredded or destroyed in a way that maintains confidentiality.

If training is taking place at a club meeting, the club should have a process in place to protect personal information. Review this process at this time.

If training is taking place at a district convention, review the following:

If your club collects such information, create a process to protect this information. For instance, minimize the number of people with access to the documents. An example of such policy can be found at kiwanis.org/clubpolicybasics.

If you have Internet access, show this page—scroll to “Information security.”

Potential questions:
Q: If I am in charge of keeping this personal information for the specified time period, can I be held personally and financially responsible in the event of a data breach?
A: Yes, you can. The Directors and Officers Insurance (D&O) provides protection for directors, officers, committee chairpersons and members for liability arising out of the performance of their duties that may result in claims.

Answer to training guide question 13: **three years**.

**Youth and social media**

Social media has grown exponentially over the last 10 years. It is a convenient way to communicate with the youth we serve, but it should be used with caution. Keep yourself safe and follow these easy guidelines:
- Don’t initiate online connections with youth—begin an online “friendship” with a youth only at the youth’s request.
- If a youth requests online friendship (e.g., Facebook), use your
best judgment when responding. Many social media sites have settings that let you decide how much particular people see of your profile and posts.

- On social media sites, interaction is a public interaction. Each interaction can be viewed by others.
- On social media sites, refrain from interactions that can be seen as excessive (e.g., constantly “liking” or “retweeting” or posting on someone’s page).

Ask the group for ideas about alternative ways adults can interact with youth online. Some sample answers include:

- A Facebook group for the SLP club.
- A Google or Yahoo! group.

Potential questions

Q: What if I have already tried to connect to youth via social media?
A: Beginning today, use this policy.

Behavioral or health issues

Some of the youth we work with may have behavioral or health issues that we are not trained to handle. In such situations:

- Leave it to the professionals! If a youth gives you personal information and seeks your counseling, help him or her find a professional who is trained to help.
- Be careful about getting involved with the personal lives of the youth you work with. We want to be mentors, but we need good judgment. Don’t get entrenched in personal issues such as dating/romantic situations.

Ask the group where they might find help for youth needing support. Possible answers:

- Counselors at the school or agency where the youth attends
- A local crisis number to access services for youth

Answer to training guide question 15: a professional/school counselors/crisis hotline

When rules conflict

Adults working directly with youth are responsible for knowing which standard should be followed. But what if you’re trying to figure out which policy to follow—school policies, or local, state/provincial or national laws or regulations?
Always go with the highest applicable standard. In other words, use the **strictest** policy.

**Read the following scenario to the group and ask them to respond:**
Your Kiwanis club is helping an SLP club with a service project in the school. Which of these two policies should be followed?

- **The school policy states that all adults who work with students in the school or at school-sponsored events must have a clear background check.**
- **Kiwanis requires that Kiwanis club members who are SLP advisors should have a cleared background check.**

**Answer to training guide question 16: highest**

**Best practices**

The words “best practices” have come up a few times. Let’s look at some of the best practices for any situation that involves working with youth.

- **Rule of threes.** We discussed the “rule of threes” in the transportation section, but this is an important rule in all situations. When just one adult is present with one youth, there is a risk for both parties. If a child falsely accuses you of misconduct or abuse, it is much more difficult to disprove the accusation if nobody else was there. A false accusation can follow you for the rest of your life—even if charges are dropped and your name is legally cleared.
- **Transportation.** Your first choice should always be a school vehicle or commercial transportation—rather than your personal vehicle.
- **Troubling behavior involving a Kiwanis-family member.** If you report troubling behavior, the guidelines require you to contact someone in leadership at the event, or at the school or site of the event—and the legal authorities. The following procedure is recommended if a report is warranted when a Kiwanis-family member is involved:
  1. Notify event leadership.
  2. Notify the authorities (if applicable laws require).
  3. Notify your club or district leadership.
  4. Follow the “conduct unbecoming of a member” process in the bylaws.
- **Dealing with the media:**
  - Be helpful.
  - Answer questions as appropriate.
Never say, “No comment.” (Suggested comment: “Authorities are aware of the situation and an investigation is underway. The Kiwanis club of _____ is cooperating fully. We want to give the authorities time to complete their work before offering any further comment.”)

Call Kiwanis International for crisis communications help.

- Let the professionals do their jobs.
  - If you see or suspect troubling behavior, follow the Youth Protection Guidelines for reporting.
  - To protect the youth, yourself and other adults, maintain confidentiality. Once you report the incident to the authorities, protect the privacy of those involved and do not discuss details unless required to do so by an official investigator.

When you are finished, hand out a copy of the Kiwanis Youth Protection Guidelines to each participant.

If your club sponsors an Aktion Club:
- Consult and follow the Guidelines for working with Aktion Club members, available in the district administrator and advisor resources section of aktionclub.org/resources.
- Kiwanis advisors to Aktion Clubs need an approved background check conducted and verified by Kiwanis International.

If your club sponsors a CKI Club:
- Kiwanis advisors to CKI clubs need an approved background check conducted and verified by Kiwanis International.

Thank you for your attention and participation

Thank you
Ask for final questions. Be sure to thank your participants for their attention and participation in the training.

References:

Content in the area of Child Abuse obtained from Caring for Your School-Age Child: Ages 5 to 12 (Copyright © 2004 American Academy of Pediatrics - updated 3/19/2013).

(Updated 06/16/2016)
Kiwanis International Youth Protection Guidelines
Training guide and member resource *(ANSWER KEY)*

*Follow along with your trainer while using this worksheet.*

1. Kiwanians interact with more than **300,000** members of Kiwanis youth programs.

2. Approximately **3 million** cases of abuse and neglect—involving almost **5.5 million** children—are reported in the U.S. each year.

3. The three types of abuse we are learning about in this training are: **emotional**, **physical** and **sexual**.

4. Troubling behavior includes: Troubling behavior includes all forms of abuse, behavior not in accordance with the Kiwanis Youth Protection Guidelines, **troubling behavior** by a youth or adult or any behavior that causes your internal voice to say: **something’s not right about this**.

5. Which Kiwanis members need to be educated about the new Youth Protection Guidelines?
   a. Club officers
   b. District officers
   c. SLP club advisors
   d. Every Kiwanis member

6. At Kiwanis events, a chaperone of youth must be **21** years of age or older.

7. True or False: If I am chosen to be my Kiwanis club’s advisor to one of our sponsored SLPs, I need to have a clear criminal history background check through any provider.

8. For overnight stays, the minimum suggested ratio of adults to youth is **1** adult male for each **10** youth males and **1** adult female for each **10** youth females.

9. The best practice is to have at least **three** people in the car with written permission from the parent or guardian when transporting youth

10. True or False: An adult may give a youth over-the-counter medication at a Kiwanis event.

11. When is it appropriate to use alcohol or tobacco at an event conducted primarily for youth or organized by youth members? **Never**
12. When you witness troubling behavior at a Kiwanis event, report it immediately to the person in charge of the event. In the case of an emergency, call emergency services personnel.

13. Documents that have personal information about youth participants should be kept a minimum of three years (or longer if state/provincial law mandates) before being destroyed in a way that maintains confidentiality.

14. Answer the following true/false items about youth and social media:
   
   True/False: An online friendship with a youth (e.g., Facebook friendship and other formal connections) should be initiated by the youth via a social media platform’s formal request process.
   
   True/False: If you are a Facebook “friend” with a youth, you can assume your interactions are private.
   
   True/False: If a youth posts or tweets fun, interesting or notable things, I should “like” and/or retweet them as much as possible.

15. If you are working with a youth who has behavioral or health issues that you are not trained to handle, seek help from a professional, school counselors or a crisis hotline.

16. When determining which policy to follow, always defer to the highest applicable standards.

Resources

Kiwanis Youth Protection Guidelines online: kiwanis.org/youthprotection

Developing a club policy on background checks: kiwanisone.org/backgroundchecks

National Child Abuse Hotline (USA and Canada)

Phone: 1-800-4-A-CHILD/ 1-800-422-4453

Website: childhelp.org