

YOUNG PEOPLE FIRST

Safeguarding – a code of practice

THIS CARD CONTAINS ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR ALL ADULTS IN SCOUTING.

PLEASE KEEP IT WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES.



scouts.org.uk/safeguarding

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WHAT DO I DO IF...?

If a young person tells you they are being abused you must:

1. Allow them to speak – don't interrupt – accept what they say
2. Be understanding and reassuring - do not give your opinion
3. Tell them you will try to help but must pass the information on
4. Tell your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner immediately
5. Write careful notes of what was said using the actual words
6. Include the time and date and full names of those involved
7. Sign and pass your notes to your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner
8. Make sure that Scouting poses no further risk to their welfare

If you are concerned about the welfare of a young person or there is a concern, complaint or allegation about an adult or yourself, inside or outside Scouting, you must:

1. Tell your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner immediately
2. Write careful notes of what you witnessed, heard or were told
3. Include the time and date and full names of those involved
4. Sign and pass your notes to your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner
5. Make sure that Scouting poses no further risk to their welfare

It is your duty to report ALL safeguarding concerns as a matter of urgency following the correct process.

If a young person is at immediate risk of significant harm call **999** and request Police. Inform your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner once you have done this.

You must refer any concern or complaint to your GSL or DC as a matter of urgency. DO NOT investigate it yourself.

If you are in any doubt about what to do, contact the Scout Information Centre on **0345 300 1818** or **safeguarding@scouts.org.uk**

You can also contact the NSPCC on **0808 800 5000** or **help@nspcc.org.uk**

It is the policy of The Scout Association to safeguard the welfare of all young people by protecting them from neglect and from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

All members have a duty to report concerns or suspicions and a right to do so in confidence and free from harassment.

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR



- Do** remember that you are a role model at ALL times, inside and outside Scouting
- Do** treat everyone with dignity and respect in line with the Scouting Values
- Do** treat all young people equally - do not show favouritism
- Do** follow the adult to young person ratios at all times
- Do** remember that you have been placed in a position of trust - do not abuse this
- Do** report all allegations, suspicions and concerns immediately

- Do** remember that someone may misinterpret your actions
- Do** respect a young person's right to personal privacy
- Do** act within appropriate boundaries even in difficult circumstances
- Do** encourage an open and transparent culture
- Do** create an environment where young people feel safe to voice their concerns
- Do** have appropriate sleeping arrangements and changing facilities for young people, adults and Young Leaders
- Do not** drink alcohol when you are responsible for young people and never allow young people on Scouting activities to drink alcohol

- Do not** trivialise abuse or let it go unreported
- Do not** join in physical contact games with young people
- Do not** overstep the boundaries between yourself and young people by engaging in friendships or romantic or sexual relationships
- Do not** allow activities that encourage bullying behaviour including initiation ceremonies, dares or forfeits
- Do not** use inappropriate, suggestive or threatening language
- Do not** plan to be alone with a young person - do plan activities that involve at least one other adult being within sight and hearing
- Do not** rely on your reputation or position to protect you