

# YOUNG PEOPLE FIRST

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

A Code of good practice for Adults in Scouting. Designed for you to keep with you - carry it.

## Code of behaviour

- Do** put the "Young People First" guidance into practice.
- Do** treat everyone with respect.
- Do** provide an example you wish others to follow.
- Do** plan activities which involve more than one other person being present, or at least which are within sight or hearing of others.
- Do** respect a young person's right to personal privacy.
- Do** have separate sleeping accommodation for leaders and young people.
- Do** provide access for younger people to talk to others about any concerns they may have.
- Do** encourage young people and adults to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes or behaviour they do not like.
- Do** avoid situations that compromise your relationship with young people and are unacceptable within a relationship of trust (e.g. a relationship between a leader and a youth member over the age of consent).
- Do** remember that someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well-intentioned.
- Do** recognise that caution is required even in sensitive moments of counselling, such as when dealing with bullying, bereavement or abuse.
- Do NOT** permit abusive youth peer activities (eg initiation ceremonies, ridiculing, bullying).
- Do NOT** play physical contact games with young people.
- Do NOT** have any inappropriate physical or verbal contact with others.
- Do NOT** jump to conclusions about others without checking facts.
- Do NOT** allow yourself to be drawn into inappropriate attention seeking behaviour such as tantrums or crushes.
- Do NOT** exaggerate or trivialise child-abuse issues.
- Do NOT** show favouritism to any individual.
- Do NOT** make suggestive remarks or gestures, even in fun.
- Do NOT** let suspicion, disclosure or allegation of abuse, go unrecorded or unreported.
- Do NOT** rely on just your good name to protect you.
- Do NOT** believe "it could never happen to me".

## What happens if ... ?

### If you suspect a child is being abused:

1. immediately tell your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner;
2. record the **facts** as you know them and give a copy to your District Commissioner;
3. ensure that the child has access to an independent adult;
4. ensure that no Scouting situation arises which could cause any further concern.

### If a child discloses to you abuse by someone else:

1. allow the child to speak without interruption, accepting what is said;
2. alleviate feelings of guilt and isolation, while passing no judgement;
3. advise that you will try to offer support, but that you **must** pass the information on;
4. same steps as 1-4 as in suspecting a child is being abused.

### If you receive an allegation about any adult or about yourself

1. immediately tell your Group Scout Leader or District Commissioner;
2. record the **facts** as you know them and give a copy to your District Commissioner;
3. try to ensure no-one is placed in a position which could cause further compromise.

**You MUST refer**

**You MUST NOT investigate**