

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