

Summary of Abuse and Harassment Prevention Guidelines

Statement of Conduct for Working with Youth

Rotary International is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all participants in Rotary activities. It is the duty of all Rotarians, Rotarians' spouses, partners, and other volunteers to safeguard to the best of their ability the welfare of and to prevent the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of children and young people with whom they come in contact.

Adopted by the RI Board of Directors, November 2002

Purpose:

Rotary clubs place great emphasis on their work involving children, young people, and other vulnerable persons through our many projects and programs, such as Interact, RYLA, mentoring programs, and the like. This volunteer effort is vital to the quality of life in our communities and to the good reputation of Rotary and Rotarians. For this exemplary work to continue, it is important that our Rotary clubs protect the interests of everyone involved and create and maintain a safe and respectful environment for all participants in Rotary programs, activities and events.

Guidelines:

- Rotarians, their families, and non-Rotarian volunteers are expected to use their best efforts to safeguard the welfare and prevent the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse or harassment of every young or vulnerable person with whom they come in contact in connection with any Rotary program, activity or event.
- Rotary District 6900 is committed to protecting the safety and well being of all our program participants and will not tolerate their abuse or harassment.
- All allegations of abuse or harassment shall be taken seriously and shall be handled in accordance with D-6900 Abuse and Harassment Reporting Guidelines.
- Guidelines will also assist in ensuring that an adult against whom an allegation is made is treated fairly, since an allegation of abuse or harassment does not necessarily mean that abuse or harassment has actually occurred.
- Each club President shall be responsible for club-level ratification and enforcement of the D-6900 Abuse and Harassment Prevention Policies and Reporting Guidelines.

- Club Presidents shall also be responsible for familiarizing themselves with the District guidelines and for dealing with allegations or disclosures that arise within their clubs.
- Club Presidents shall also be responsible for raising awareness and training all members of their clubs for the procedures to follow when dealing with allegations of abuse or harassment.
- Within thirty (30) days of the start of each new Rotary year, an informational program shall be scheduled at the club level in the presence of as many club members as possible to advise all members of the D-6900 Abuse and Harassment Prevention Policies and Guidelines.
- In the event that an allegation of abuse or harassment is brought to the attention of the club President, he/she shall inform all members of the club's Board of Directors within three (3) calendar days. The Board shall then meet within ten (10) calendar days of receiving the notice to discuss the allegation and shall report their recommendations in writing to the District Governor.
- Thereafter, the District Governor and the club President shall determine an appropriate course of action, including the involvement of law enforcement officials, based on the District Guidelines and the recommendation of the club's Board of Directors.
- A final written report of the alleged abuse or harassment incident and its disposition shall be prepared by the club President and sent to the District Governor within thirty (30) calendar days of any action taken by the local club Board of Directors.
- All written or other reports and discussions shall be strictly confidential and shall be distributed only to those persons with a need to know.

D-6900 Abuse and Harassment Prevention Committee

Sally Platt, Chairman – R.C. of Marietta Metro (Past President), D-6900 Secretary, Registered Nurse (pediatrics)

Gant Adams – R.C. of Vinings (President-elect), Co-Chair D-6900 Interact Committee

David Beam – R.C. of Marietta Metro (President-elect), Deputy Chief of Police, City of Marietta

Preston Howard – R.C. of Marietta Metro, Assistant Superintendent Marietta Schools

David E. Stahl – R.C. of East Cobb (Past President), District Parliamentarian, Attorney at Law

Cindy Williams – R.C. of Sandy Springs, Co-Chair D-6900 Interact Committee, Educator