

# CHILD ABUSE POLICY

## Guidelines and Recommendations for the prevention of Child Abuse

In an effort to preserve the camp, staff and ministry from undue and unfounded accusations regarding inappropriate moral behavior, the following guidelines must be observed by all camp workers.

### UNDERSTANDING FOUR AREAS OF CHILD ABUSE –

1. **PHYSICAL ABUSE** involves physical aggression directed at a child by an adult or the deliberate infliction of serious injuries or actions that place the child at obvious risk of serious injury.
2. **SEXUAL ABUSE** or child abuse in which an adult or older adolescent abuses a child for sexual stimulation. Include asking or pressuring a child to engage in sexual activities (regardless of the outcome), indecent exposure to a child, displaying pornography to a child.
3. **EMOTIONAL ABUSE** is defined as behavior such as loud yelling, coarse and rude attitude, inattentiveness, harsh criticism and belittling of the child's personality.
4. **NEGLECT ABUSE** is the failure to provide needed food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision to the degree that the child's health, safety and well-being are threatened with harm. Also the non-provision of the adequate necessities for body functions and child's survival including the lack of attention, love, and nurturing.

### IN RELATION TO CAMPER WITH STAFF –

1. The camp worker/staffer, when engaging in one-to-one conversation with a camper, will be in a public place and not in the confines of a cabin or behind closed doors.
2. Be discreet in your discussions with campers. Remember when you are talking with other adults that your conversations might be overheard by a camper.
3. A camp worker should not isolate themselves with an individual of the opposite sex. (adult or camper)
4. In case a camper needs to be transported, at least one adult of same sex should accompany them.
5. Cabins and bathrooms are off-limits to members of the opposite sex.
6. Take showers in private. Camp worker/staffer will not use the showers while campers are using restroom.
7. Be discreet when dressing in the cabins. Turn your back to the campers. Do not walk around the cabin disrobed.
8. Refrain from behavior that could be interpreted as "sexual" in nature (i.e. kissing campers, inappropriate touching, or inappropriate disrobing). Harmless touching (i.e. hugging, back rubbing, and sitting on the lap) is considered inappropriate at camp.
9. Counselors/staffers need to set the example by refraining from physical contact and public displays of affection.
10. No Physical contact that can be interrupted as a Slap, Hit or Corporal Punishment. Proper physical restraint may be used if necessary for the protection of campers or property. Discipline of campers will be achieved by other means (assertive discipline, time-out, restriction, etc.) and then only by the program manager or his designee.

### IN RELATION TO CAMPER WITH CAMPER –

1. Camp worker/staffer are legally "*in loco parentis*" meaning in place of parent. The protection and care of a child is their responsibility and they must act accordingly. Supervising and correcting in the camper activities.
2. The camp worker/staffer should be constantly aware of any inappropriate expressive behavior between any two campers under his/her supervision. Reporting and logging incidents.
3. Cabin groups will be discouraged from any skit, jokes, or costuming which purposes to assume the appearance of the opposite sex, sexually suggestive or could be interrupted as culturally insensitive.

**REPORT ANY SUSPICIONS, OBSERVATIONS OR PROBLEMS TO THE WEEKLY CAMP MANAGER. DOCUMENT ANY PROBLEMS OR SITUATIONS THAT ARE QUESTIONABLE OR COULD RESULT IN CHARGES BEING MADE AT A LATER DATE.**

I \_\_\_\_\_, am in full understanding and agreement of the above guidelines. I also understand that this constitutes a part of my signed contract with Verdugo Pines Bible Camp.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_