



Lifeline Christian Mission – Child Protection Guidelines

Thank you for serving on a mission team with Lifeline Christian Mission. During your time in the field, you may have opportunities to interact with children and their families. Because of this, it is essential that you understand your responsibilities and conduct yourself in ways that honor Christ and reflect His love and integrity.

The Child Protection Guidelines exist for two important reasons:

- **To safeguard children** by establishing clear expectations for appropriate behavior and equipping staff, volunteers, and visitors to be a life-giving and Christ-centered presence in their lives.
- **To safeguard those who serve** by providing clear standards that help protect staff, volunteers, and visitors from misunderstandings or unfounded allegations of inappropriate conduct.

1. Minimize Risk Situations

- **Never** initiate, encourage, or participate in behavior that is illegal, unsafe, or inappropriate.
- **Never** be alone with a single child.
- **Never** show favoritism or spend excessive one-on-one time with any child.
- **Never** do anything that could be misinterpreted by a third party.
- **Never** place yourself or a child in a vulnerable situation.
- Do ensure another adult is present whenever possible.
- Do meet with children in open, visible, and public spaces whenever possible.

2. Physical Contact

- **Never** strike, physically harm, or abuse a child in any way.
- Do use appropriate, non-intimate forms of interaction—such as high-fives or handshakes—instead of hugging or holding children.
- Do encourage children to seek physical and emotional comfort from their parents or long-term caregivers.

- Do help trip participants redirect children to their parents or primary caregivers to meet their needs.
- Do always ask permission from both the child and their parent or caregiver before taking individual photographs.

3. Social Behavior

- **Never** leave personal belongings unattended in ways that could create temptation or misunderstandings.
- **Never** give gifts of any kind, large or small.
- **Never** violate a child's privacy or confidentiality, including exchanging personal contact information.
- **Never** act in ways that embarrass, shame, humiliate, or degrade a child.
- **Never** use language or behavior that could cause emotional or psychological harm.
- **Never** suggest or engage in inappropriate behavior, language, or relationships.
- Do allow children to initiate greetings, honoring cultural norms and personal boundaries.
- Do encourage children to do what they can for themselves, fostering independence.
- Do treat boys and girls equally and with respect.
- Do include children in decision-making when appropriate, especially regarding their own lives.
- Do provide clear, age-appropriate guidance and expectations.

4. Sexual Behavior

- **Never** engage in or pursue any physical or sexual relationship with a child.
- **Never** act in ways that are sexually suggestive, inappropriate, or provocative.
- **Never** participate in or allow sexually suggestive games, jokes, or activities involving children - or anyone for that matter.
- **Never** perform personal or intimate tasks for a child that they can do for themselves.
- **Never** expose children to pornography or sexually explicit content of any kind.

If you suspect or witness abuse or inappropriate behavior: immediately report any observed or suspected abuse to your team leader and/or a Lifeline U.S. staff member. This includes any action or behavior that may be considered poor practice, inappropriate, or potentially abusive.