



Policy on Mandatory Reporting and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

Any employee or student of or volunteer for SUNY Cobleskill who witnesses or has reasonable cause to suspect any sexual abuse of a child occurring on State University property or while off campus during official State University business or University-sponsored events shall have an affirmative obligation to report such conduct to the relevant University Police Department immediately. Such report should include the names of the victim and assailant (if known), other identifying information about the victim and assailant, the location of the activity, and the nature of the activity. Upon receiving such a report, the applicable University Police Department shall promptly notify the Commissioner of University Police at SUNY System Administration who shall report such incidents to the Chancellor for periodic reporting to the Board of Trustees.

In addition, to aid in the prevention of crimes against children on property of the State University of New York and/or during official State University business at events sponsored by the State University of New York, relevant employees should be trained on the identification of such crimes and proper notification requirements. Vendors, licensees or others who are given permission to come onto campus or to use University facilities for events or activities that will include participation of children shall ensure that they have in place procedures for training, implementation of applicable pre-employment screening requirements and reporting of child sexual abuse.

For purposes of this policy, the applicable definitions of child sexual abuse are those used in the NYS Penal Law in Articles 130 and 263 and Section 260.10 and “child” is defined as an individual under the age of 17.

Child Protection Policy

A. SUMMARY

Individuals must conduct themselves appropriately with children who participate in college-related programs and report instances or suspicion of physical or sexual abuse of children.

B. POLICY

The State University of New York is committed to protecting the safety and well-being of children who participate in college-related programs and activities, whether on or off campus, or utilize campus facilities for activities including, but not limited to, sports camps, academic and personal enrichment programs and research studies.

C. DEFINITIONS

Covered Activity: A program or activity sponsored or approved by the college or a college affiliated organization, or an activity conducted by a vendor, licensee or permittee for which a license or permit for use of college facilities has been approved, occurring on or off campus, for the duration of which the responsibility for custody, control and supervision of children is vested in the college, college-affiliated organization or the vendor, licensee or permittee so approved. This policy is not applicable to on-campus child care centers.

Covered Person: A person who is responsible for the custody, control or supervision of children participating in the Covered Activity and who is:

- (i) an employee of the college or college-affiliated organization;
- (ii) a SUNY Cobleskill student;
- (iii) a volunteer of the college or college-affiliated organization; or
- (iv) a vendor, licensee, permittee or other person, who is given permission to come onto campus or to use college facilities for Covered Activities; or
- (v) an employee, agent or volunteer of (iv) above.

Child: An individual under the age of seventeen years, who is participating in a Covered Activity. The term "child" shall not include a matriculated student of the University or a person accepted for matriculation.

Children's Camp: A camp defined under New York Public Health Law §1392.

Physical Abuse: Physical contact with a child by a covered person which is intended to cause, or causes, pain or physical injury, including punching, beating, shaking, throwing, kicking, biting and burning, or directing a child, outside the norm of the supervised activity, to perform physical activity which is intended to cause physical injury.

Sexual Abuse: Engaging in a sexual offense with a child and/or encouraging or promoting sexual performance by a child. Pursuant to the NYS Penal Law Articles 130, 263, and Sections 260.10 and 260.25, sexual offenses include: sexual misconduct, rape, criminal sex acts, forcible touching, persistent sexual abuse, sexual abuse, aggravated sexual abuse, course of sexual conduct against a child, facilitating a sex offense with a controlled substance, sexually motivated felony, predatory sexual assault against a child, and sexual performance by a child. This also includes Penal Law offenses relating to children including endangering the welfare of a child and unlawfully dealing with a child in the first degree. Sexual performance by a child, as defined by the Penal Law, is any behavior which results in touching of the sexual or other intimate parts of a child for the purpose of sexual gratification of the child and/or adult, including touching by the child and/or adult with or without clothing, and all acts as defined by New York State Penal Law Articles 130, 263 and Section 260.10.

Responsible University Official: The employee of the University or University-affiliated organization, who has been designated by the Campus under Section G, Campus Responsibilities.

University-affiliated organization: The Research Foundation for the State University of New York, campus foundation, campus alumni association, campus auxiliary services corporation, or any other entity so designated by the Chancellor or Campus President.

D. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

A Covered Person shall not:

1. Be alone with a child, unless the Covered Person is a relative or guardian of the child, unless one-on-one contact is approved in accordance with a determination pursuant to Section G.2 of this policy. In no event shall a Covered Person, who is not a relative or guardian of a child, be alone with the child in a rest room, locker room, shower, sleeping area or vehicle.
2. Engage in physical abuse or sexual abuse of a child.
3. Engage in the use of alcohol or illegal drugs, or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs during Covered Activities.
4. Enable, facilitate or fail to address a child's use of alcohol or illegal/non-prescribed drugs.
5. Contact a child through electronic media, including social media, for the purpose of engaging in any prohibited conduct, including sexual conduct.
6. Offer or make a gift to a child for the purpose of engaging in any prohibited conduct, including sexual conduct.
7. Release a child from a Covered Activity without a written authorization from the child's parent or guardian.

E. REQUIRED CONDUCT

A Covered Person shall:

1. Take all reasonable measures to prevent physical and sexual abuse of a child, including immediately removing a child from potential physical abuse, sexual abuse or prohibited conduct as defined herein.
2. Report immediately any suspected physical abuse or sexual abuse of a child to the campus University Police Department, and provide to the campus University Police Department a written report of suspected physical or sexual abuse of a child. Other reporting requirements not addressed in this Policy may apply, such as the obligations of mandated reporters under New York Social Services Law, who are required to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment when they are presented with a reasonable cause to suspect such abuse or maltreatment has occurred
3. Comply with the [University's Policy on Mandatory Reporting and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, Document No. 6504](#) available on the [University-Wide Policies and Procedures webpage](#).
4. Complete all required training developed pursuant to this Policy.
5. Wear and display prominently at all times during the Covered Activity a lanyard or other form of identification that identifies the individual as having the responsibilities of a Covered Person.

F. RESPONSIBLE UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL

A Responsible University Official shall:

1. Confirm that the requirements of this Policy have been communicated to Covered Persons (i) – (iii) prior to the commencement of a Covered Activity.
2. Confirm that New York Sex Offender Registry and National Sex Offender Public Registry searches (as described in Campus Responsibilities, below) have been obtained and reviewed for Covered Persons (i) – (iii) prior to the commencement of a Covered Activity.
3. Confirm that the completed Acknowledgement of the University's Child Protection form (available in [Exhibit D](#) of this policy) has been obtained from Covered Persons (iv) – (v) prior to the commencement of a Covered Activity.
4. Immediately report allegations of physical abuse or sexual abuse of a child to the campus University Police Department, and complete and provide to the campus University Police Department a written report for each allegation of physical abuse or sexual abuse of a child. Other reporting requirements not addressed in this Policy may apply, such as the obligations of mandated reporters under New York Social Services Law, who are required to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment when they are presented with a reasonable cause to suspect such abuse or maltreatment has occurred.
5. Notify and coordinate with appropriate campus offices to ensure that allegations of suspected physical abuse or sexual abuse are investigated and addressed appropriately.
6. Confirm that required training on this Policy has occurred prior to the commencement of a Covered Activity for all Covered Persons who are employees, volunteers, students or agents of the State University or a University-affiliated organization.

G. CAMPUS RESPONSIBILITIES

Each campus, System Administration, and University-affiliated organization shall develop procedures to:

1. Designate a Responsible University Official for each Covered Activity.
2. Determine on a limited basis that the first sentence of section D.1. of this Policy, which prohibits a Covered Person from being alone with a child, shall not apply to certain Covered Activities when the pedagogical or health-related nature of the Covered Activity requires such one-on-one contact with a child. Examples may include tutoring, music lessons, speech therapy, and medical, dental or optical services.
3. Communicate the requirements of this Policy to Covered Persons (i) – (v).
4. By May 15, 2015 and biennially thereafter, provide for and require training on this Policy for all Covered Persons who are employees, volunteers, students or agents of the State University or a University-affiliated organization prior to the commencement of a Covered Activity
5. Obtain New York Sex Offender Registry and National Sex Offender Public Registry searches for Covered Persons who are employees, volunteers, students or agents of the State University or a University-affiliated organization and complete a review of such searches not more than ninety (90) days prior to the commencement of a Covered Activity.
 - a. A search of the NY Sex Offender Registry means:

- i. a search of the file of persons required to register pursuant to Article 6-C of the Correction Law maintained by the NY Division of Criminal Justice Services pursuant to NY Correction Law § 168-b for every level of sex offender (Level 1 through Level 3), which requires an email, CD or hard copy submission of names and identifiers to DCJS as described on the [DCJS website](http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/nsor/800info_cdsuubmit.htm) [url: http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/nsor/800info_cdsuubmit.htm]; and
 - ii. retention of the records of the results of such search. Note that an internet search alone will not meet the requirements of this Policy.
 - b. A search of the National Sex Offender Public Registry means:
 - i. a search by first and last name of the National Sex Offender Public Website maintained by the United States Department of Justice at this link: <http://www.nsopw.gov/>; and
 - ii. retention of the records of the results of such search.
6. Provide for the prompt investigation and preparation of written findings by the campus University Police Department of reports of suspected physical abuse or sexual abuse, and if there is reasonable cause to believe a crime has been committed, coordination by the campus University Police Department with other law enforcement officials.
7. Provide a mechanism to report and respond to allegations of retaliation (as described below).
8. Retain documentation of the search results from the New York and National Sex Offender registries for Covered Persons who are employees, volunteers, students or agents of the University or a University-affiliated organization for six (6) years after the covered person has separated from employment.

H. RETALIATION

Retaliatory action against anyone acting in good faith, who has reported alleged physical abuse or sexual abuse in accordance with this Policy, or who has been involved in investigating or responding to allegations of physical or sexual abuse, or who has reported a failure to comply with this Policy, is a violation of this Policy. Retaliatory acts may include, but are not limited to:

- employment actions affecting salary, promotion, job duties, work schedules and/or work locations;
- actions negatively impacting a student's academic record or progress; and
- any action affecting the campus environment, including harassment and intimidation.

I. THIRD PARTY USE OF UNIVERSITY FACILITIES

The use of University facilities by vendors, licensees or permittees for commercial and non-commercial Covered Activities shall be accomplished pursuant to a revocable permit. The following minimum terms shall be included in all such revocable permits:

1. A specific definition of the areas accessible to the Covered Activity. For example, revocable permits for sporting events held on athletic fields should include the athletic field, as well as any ancillary areas or structures where minors will be permitted, such as adjacent grounds, parking lots, rest rooms, locker rooms, accessory structures, etc.
2. A provision requiring insurance coverage in the types and amounts listed below, naming the University as an additional insured, and requiring that evidence of such insurance be

provided to the University within five (5) business days of execution of the revocable permit or at minimum two weeks (14 days) prior to the scheduled use of University facilities.

- a. General Liability insurance two million dollars (\$2,000,000) each occurrence and two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in the aggregate;
 - b. New York State Workers' Compensation insurance during the term of the revocable permit for the benefit of permittee's employees required to be covered under the NYS Workers' Compensation Law.
 - c. For those instances in which a campus believes that the activity is so long or substantial and that the obtaining of such insurance will not unduly preclude beneficial use of the campus' facilities, the campus should require additional insurance in the form of: Sexual Abuse and Molestation insurance, either under the above-described general liability policy or in a separate policy, with coverage not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000). Any insurance coverage for sexual abuse and molestation insurance written on a claims made basis shall remain in effect for a minimum of six (6) months following the use of University facilities.
3. If the Covered Activity is a Children's Camp as defined in Section C of this policy, a provision requiring permittee to provide the University with a copy of its camp operator permit issued by the New York State Commissioner of Health, either upon execution of the permit or not later than two weeks (14 days) before the scheduled use of University facilities.
 4. A representation and warranty from permittee that for all of its employees and volunteers, and employees and volunteers of its sub-permittees, who shall enter upon University facilities for purposes related to Covered Activity, permittee has conducted within the ninety (90) day period preceding the use of University facilities (i) a search of the NY Sex Offender Registry; and (ii) a search of the National Sex Offender Public website.
 5. A representation and warranty from permittee that for all Covered Activities: (i) it shall adhere to the American Camp Association standards for minimum staff-to-child supervision ratios, minimum staff age and minimum staff accreditation requirements (available at: <http://www.acacamps.org/accreditation/stdsglance>); and (ii) that the overall supervisor for each Covered Activity is an adult with certification or documented training and experience in the Covered Activity.
 6. A representation and warranty from permittee that any transportation it provides for participating minors to and from the University grounds shall conform to the American Camp Association's transportation standards (available at: <http://www.acacamps.org/accreditation/stdsglance>).
 7. A provision requiring written acknowledgement from permittee that it has received a copy of the University's Child Protection Policy and agrees to abide by all of its terms, including its requirement that any suspected physical or sexual abuse be immediately reported to the campus University Police Department.
 - 8.

J. CAMPUS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A campus may promulgate policies and procedures that supplement, and are no less stringent than, the policies and procedures set forth herein.