
Child Protection Policy for Visitors

This policy is for anyone who visits Sunshine Cambodia (SC) and outlines SC's commitment to the protection of children and youth from abuse of all kinds. It makes clear expectations of behaviour and good practice when working with or visiting children and youth.

1. TERMS & DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. **Child:** a person under eighteen (18) years of age.
- 1.2. **Youth:** a person between the ages of fifteen (15) and twenty four (24) years.
- 1.3. **Physical Abuse:** Actual or likely physical injury, or failure to prevent physical injury, or suffering, to a child/ youth/vulnerable stakeholder, including deliberate hitting, beating, shaking, throwing, burning, drowning, suffocating, poisoning and corporal punishment.
- 1.4. **Mental/Emotional Abuse:** Actual or likely severe adverse effect on the emotional and behavioral development of a child/youth/vulnerable stakeholder caused, including persistent or severe emotional ill treatment or rejection. May involve conveying that they are worthless, unloved or inadequate and cause them to feel frightened, in danger and/or corrupted.
- 1.5. **Neglect:** The persistent or severe neglect of a child or youth/vulnerable stakeholder or the failure to protect a child/ youth/ vulnerable stakeholder from exposure to any kind of danger, including cold and starvation, or extreme failure to carry out important aspects of care, resulting in the significant impairment of the child/youth/ vulnerable stakeholder's development, including non-organic failure to thrive.
- 1.6. **Sexual Abuse:** Actual or likely exploitation, representing the involvement of dependent, developmentally immature children and youth and vulnerable stakeholders in sexual activities they do not truly comprehend, to which they are unable to give informed consent or that violate social taboos or family rules, such as touching a child/youth/vulnerable stakeholder's genitals, forcing a child/youth/vulnerable stakeholder to watch or take part in pornography or coercing the child/youth/vulnerable stakeholder to have sex. It is considered abuse whether or not the child/youth/vulnerable stakeholder consents.
- 1.7. **Spiritual Abuse:** The misuse of power, authority and/or trust by a spiritual leader, or someone in a position of spiritual power or authority (whether organization, institution, church or family), with the intention of controlling, coercing, manipulating, or dominating a child/youth/vulnerable stakeholder. The misuse of power within a framework of spiritual belief or practice, in order to meet the needs of the abuser (or enhance his or her position) at the expense of the needs of the child/ youth/ vulnerable stakeholder. Results in spiritual harm to a child/ youth/ vulnerable stakeholder and can be linked to other abuse, such as physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

- 1.8. **Bullying:** Physical actions intended to intimidate and harm, verbal intimidation such as racist and sexist remarks and emotional intimidation such as isolating or excluding a child/youth/vulnerable stakeholder, whereby they experience deliberate hostility.
- 1.9. **Sexual/Child Grooming:** Actions or behaviours designed to entice, encourage or persuade a child/youth/vulnerable stakeholder into inappropriate and/or unlawful sexual activity.
- 1.10. **Harmful Cultural Practices:** Specific cultural practices that contravene Human Rights and put a child/youth/vulnerable stakeholder at risk of harm, for example Child Marriage.

2. BEHAVIOURAL PROTOCOLS

- 2.1 All visitors to SC must sign the Declaration of Commitment, follow and respect these Behavioural Protocols and understand that action will be taken in cases of inappropriate behaviour.
- 2.2 SC visitors are expected to give dignity and respect to all children and youth associated with the work of SC.
- 2.3 SC visitors shall not use, abuse or exploit a child or youth in any way against Cambodian law. This includes physical abuse, mental and emotional abuse, sexual abuse and spiritual abuse as defined above.
- 2.4 SC visitors should be dressed modestly, for example, ladies must not wear spaghetti string, low-cut or transparent dresses/tops.
- 2.5 SC visitors shall not act flirtatiously with a child or youth or touch a child or youth in areas normally covered by shorts and a t-shirt.
- 2.6 SC visitors will not be left unsupervised or alone with SC children or youth in a private place that cannot be readily seen by other adults.
- 2.7 SC visitors shall not discipline a child or youth they visit. Any concerns of improper behaviour by children or youth shall be reported to project staff.
- 2.8 Local Cambodian children or youth shall not stay overnight in the residences or hotel rooms of SC visitors unless accompanied by the child's parent or legal guardian.
- 2.9 Adults will always be responsible for their behaviour and cannot blame the child or youth, even if the child or youth 'provokes' or acts in a 'seductive' way.
- 2.10 Visitors shall not photograph, video or collect stories of SC children or youth or post SC information on the internet unless prior consent has been given by SC management.

By asking permission from the staff and the children, visitors may take photographs/videos of the children for personal use only.

PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

- a) **DO** focus on happy children busy with normal childhood activities.
- b) **DO** use natural censorship if concealment is required. Some suggested ways to conceal identity include: hair across the child's face, the child holding

- his/her hands over his/her face, an object obstructing the face, or the face being shadowed only or backlit with no front lighting.
- c) **DON'T** use blurred/blacked out eyes. People can still be identified and it is not dignifying.
 - d) **DON'T** take any images of naked children or adults, or children who appear to be traumatized or in any vulnerable situation (crying, scared) or that may be of a sexualized nature.
 - e) **DON'T** use individual, identifiable faces on fundraising products (ie. calendars, greeting cards etc.)

Due to the threat of internet child pornography, SC will only post pictures on its websites and in its publications which show groups of children, rather than an individual child.

2.11 SC strongly recommends that visitors do not encourage orphanage tourism or visit programs which do not take child protection seriously.

RESPONSES TO ALLEGATIONS

Where an allegation has been made that an SC visitor has abused a child or youth, SC will take the appropriate legal action to deal with the situation. Any investigation will be kept confidential and all parties treated with respect. If a foreigner is involved, the relevant embassy will be informed.

DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT:

To be signed by all visitors to SC and kept on file at the SC office.

I declare that:

- ❖ I have read and understood Sunshine Cambodia’s Child Protection Policy for Visitors.
- ❖ I will follow the behavioural protocols as laid out in this policy during my time as a visitor.
- ❖ I have not been charged or convicted of any offence involving physical or sexual abuse of children.
- ❖ I understand that if a complaint is brought against me regarding the abuse of children while engaged in SC activities, the allegation will be thoroughly investigated in cooperation with the appropriate authorities.

Name (please print):

Nationality:

Passport No.:

Signature:

Date: