
Policy Type:	Volunteer – Youth Policies and Procedures	7.4
Policy Title:	Abuse	
Adopted:	May 15, 2018	
Reviewed and/or amended:	May 2022	

Emotional, physical, verbal, mental or sexual abuse of any individual participating/attending an OAAS event/activity will not be tolerated, nor is the use of profanity, crude remarks, or crude actions.

Alleged abuse of a youth will result in the alleged abuser's suspension of duties and removal from the event and will be reported to the Police (911) and/or Child Protection Authority.

Child Abuse Prevention Policy Statement

All allegations of actual or risk of actual physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse must be reported immediately to Police (911) and to Child Protection Authority by the person receiving the disclosure. Failure to do so may result in suspension from the program and criminal charges under provincial child protection legislation. If the person is uncertain about circumstances, it is prudent to consult with local authorities.

Information relating to the current situation must be reported to the local Child Protection Authorities. Information of a historical nature involving a former volunteer who is now an adult should be reported to police.

Upon completing the report to authorities, the person must then report to the OAAS President, and/or the OAAS Manager.

The OAAS President and/or the OAAS Manager will immediately suspend the alleged abuser or inform the Agricultural Society President or Manager to do so.

Procedure

The following steps should be taken immediately when any member or parent contacts a member of OAAS with an allegation of abuse or neglect against a member, or if the police contact OAAS to inform us of allegations or charges against a current member:

1. Advise the person that you report to and ensure you or your supervisor or both report the occurrence to Police (911) and Child Protection Authority and the OAAS President and or OAAS Manager. No judgment statement should be made about the alleged abuser, nor should you show alarm or anger.
2. Remove the youth from any further danger if warranted.
3. Advise the person he/she will hear directly from the Police and/or Child Protection Authority.

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4. Advise the youth or parent(s) that all information will be kept confidential and will only be provided to those who require it for the protection of all involved.
5. Contact the Police and/or Child Protection Authority, the OAAS President and/or OAAS Manager immediately following the disclosure.
6. As soon as possible, complete the Youth Abuse Report form to be sent to the OAAS Manager.

Appendix A

Dealing with Youth Abuse or Youth Protection Allegations:

- Listen, believe, and reassure. Stay calm. Don't panic or overreact to the information. Listen compassionately and take what the person is saying seriously. Don't criticize or tell the person they misunderstood what happened.
 - Ensure that discussions with the youth occur in a private setting, (using the "two adult rule")
 - It is critical to use open-ended questions. Do not lead. "Tell me what is happening" is a good open-ended question.
 - **It is imperative that the youth does most of the talking so as to avoid any leading by the adult in the collection of information.**
 - When the disclosure has been given, it is now time to report it to Police (911) and the Child Protection Authority. Do not probe for any details.
 - Document the actions taken, (date, location, who is involved). Be careful not to delve too deeply if you feel it will be a police matter.
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