

STORM KING YOUTH CAMP – CHILD SAFETY POLICY

TITLE STORM KING YOUTH CAMP CHILD SAEFTY POLICY 2024

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Preamble

This policy was generated out of desire to develop a culture of child safety within the activities of the Storm King Youth Camp. The Storm King Youth Camp aims to minister to children and families through an experience of faith family and fun.

Safe enjoyment of the camp will be aided by an organizational commitment to child safety. This policy aims to provide practical steps to provide a safe environment for participants of the camp as well as volunteers and organizers.

Alongside practical steps this policy aims to foster an awareness of child safety among its organizers and participants. It aims to foster a culture of child safety that permeates the different facets of Storm King Youth Camp.

This policy is based upon the 10 Principles for Child Safe Organizations 2019.

Purpose

1. Clearly demonstrate the organizations' commitment to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.
2. Inform all leaders, staff and volunteers of their obligations to act ethically towards children and their roles and responsibilities in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children.
3. Give guidance on the processes and procedures that aim to ensure children's safety and wellbeing across all areas of the organization's work.



Scope

1. This policy applies to all people who conduct work for the organisation in a paid or unpaid capacity. This includes organising committee members, leadership, volunteers, contractors and consultants.
2. This policy applies to all activities in the organisation which involve, result in or relate to contact with children.

Responsibilities

1. Development and review of the Storm King Youth Camp Child Safety Policy is the responsibility of the Storm King Youth Camp Leadership team
2. Implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the principle camp organizer
3. Overview of the implementation is the responsibility of child safety officer

Definitions

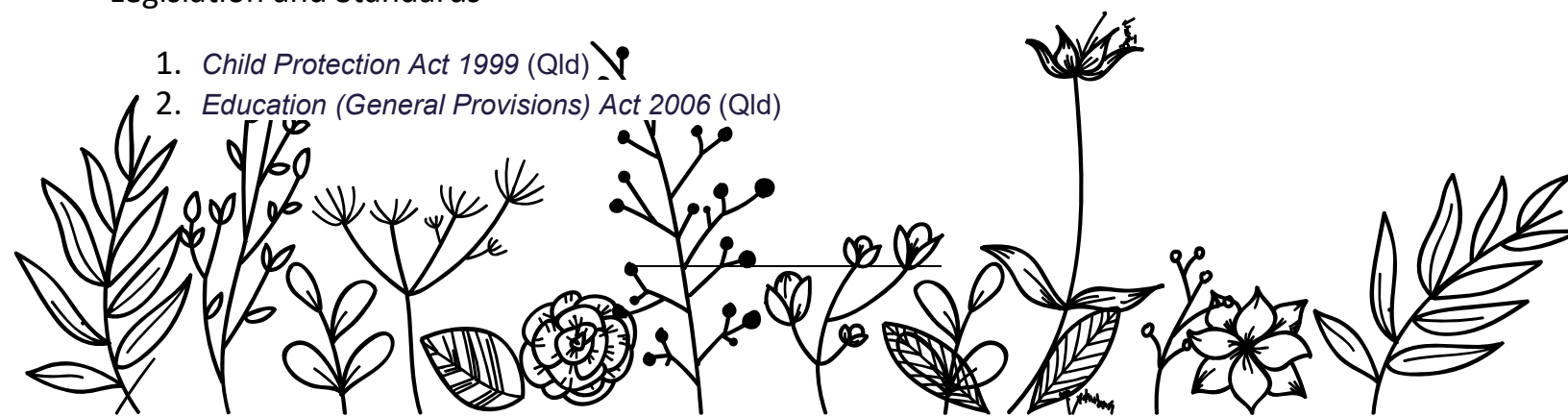
- Abuse: Intentional action or actions by a person towards another person which is intended or by affect causes harm.
- Harm: Negative impact of action taken against a person
- Child/young person: Person under the age of 18
- Sexual Abuse: Unwanted or illegal action taken against a person of a sexual nature. This can be of a physical or non-physical nature.
- Grooming: Pattern of a behavior that is aimed at a child, young person or adult that is a precursor to sexual abuse
- Physical Abuse: Non-accidental physical aggression towards a child or young person.
- Emotional or psychological abuse: Verbal or symbolical acts against a child, or young person
- Neglect: Failure of a caregiving to provided basis physical and emotional needs of a child or young person
- Leadership Team: Refers to the principal organizer and the member of the leadership team. It does not refer to the members of the youth consultative committee members
- Volunteers: Person who are given defined volunteer roles. This includes but is not limited to maintenance providers, presenters, clerics.

Resources and References

1. National Principles for Child Safe Organisations
2. Catechism of the Catholic Church 1992 V2

Legislation and Standards

1. *Child Protection Act 1999* (Qld)
2. *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* (Qld)



Principle 1 Child Safety is embedded in the Storm King Youth Camp

1. Storm King Youth Camp is committed to provide an environment where children and young people feel safe and are safe
 - a. Commitment to Child Safe in accordance to the Child Safe Organization process to be noted in online publications
 - b. Age-appropriate announcement be made to children, young people and adults at the initiation of the camp
 - c. Signage be placed for the duration of the camp informing who notify is concerns are made with regards to any aspect of the child safety.
2. Child Safety officer be appointed
 - a. The child safety officer will be present at the Storm King Youth Camp
 - b. The child safety officer will be accessible outside of the Storm Kind Youth Camp.
3. Child Safe Code of Conduct.
4. A risk assessment and management process. Will be developed
 - a. An assessment will occur and documented prior to the Storm King Youth Camp
 - b. A review will occur and documented after the Storm King Youth Camp has finished
5. Policies
 - a. Storm King Youth Camp Policy will be available online
 - b. Record keeping will be the responsibility of the principal camp organizer

Principle 2: Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously

1. Age-appropriate announcement will be undertaken at the start of the Storm King Youth Camp to inform of child and young people of there right to feel and be safe
2. The youth advisor committee will be invited to contribute to child safety policy

Principle 3: Families are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.

1. The leadership team members will, wherever possible be parents and members of participating attendees of the Storm King Youth Camp
 - a. Leadership team members will develop and review Child Safety Policy
 - b. Leadership team members will participate in risk assessment and post-camp review

Principle 4: Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.

1. Storm King Youth Camp recognizes the equal dignity of all person regardless of circumstance.
2. Storm King Youth Camp recognizes that individuals have diverse needs that require accommodation.



Principle 5: People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.

1. Blue Card

- a. All leadership team members, official volunteers, presenters and clerics are required to hold a current blue card administered by Blue Card Services (Queensland).

Principle 6: Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child focused

1. A child safety officer is to be appointed by the leadership team by consensus.
2. The child safety officer is to participate in pre-camp risk assessment and post camp child safety review
3. Announcement is to be made prior to the camp regarding how to report child safety concerns
 - a. Announcement made to children, young people and parents in an age-appropriate manner
 - b. Signage be displayed during the during of the camp

Principle 7: Leaders and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe

1. Leaders and volunteers are directed to the Catechism of the Catholic Church 1992 Version 2 for teaching regarding abuse and neglect of children and young people

Principle 8: Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimizing the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed

1. Private physical and online environment will be kept to a minimum while maintaining appropriate levels of privacy for children and young people

Principle 9: Implementation of the national child safe principles is regularly reviewed and improved.

1. The child safety policy is review on an annual basis
2. Implementation of the child safety policy is reviewed by the leadership camp on an annual basis at the post camp review

Principle 10: Policies and procedures document how the organization is safe for children and young people

1. Storm King Youth Camp commits to the Child Safe Organization framework and application to our particular circumstance
2. Documentation of how well the camp complies with the Storm King Youth Camp – Child Safe Policy will be maintained at the pre and post camp leadership meeting

