Title 4 – Codification of Board Policy Statements

Chapter 22

CHILD PROTECTION POLICIES

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Section 1. Introduction

The Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) is committed to maintaining a supportive and safe educational environment, one which seeks to enhance the well-being of all members of the NSHE community, which includes creating a secure environment for children who may participate in NSHE programs or activities, or be present at NSHE facilities or events. The NSHE policies for the protection of children are intended for the protection all children who participate in NSHE events or activities for children or who are NSHE students.
(B/R 3/13)

Section 2. Public Events and Venues

Children are permitted at events and venues open to the public on NSHE property. However, NSHE reserves the right to determine whether selected events or venues are appropriate for unescorted or unsupervised children.
(B/R 3/13)

Section 3. Definitions

1. Child. A "child" is anyone under 18 years of age or, if in school, until graduation from high school, and includes children under the age of 18 years who are registered as NSHE students. The terms "child", "minor" and "children" are used synonymously in this policy.

2. Volunteer. The term "volunteer" means individuals who are working at an institution pursuant to a volunteer agreement approved by the institution's general counsel. For the purposes of this policy, the term "volunteer" does not include a parent or guardian of a child. Parents and guardians, however, should be supervised by appropriate NSHE or non-NSHE personnel during their participation in NSHE sponsored or approved programs and activities.

3. Child Abuse or Neglect. Child abuse or neglect is defined in accordance with the provisions of NRS 432B.020-NRS 432B.150.

4. Program or Activity Involving Children. "Program or activity involving children" applies to programs or activities for children that are established by NSHE institutions; and programs or activities for children sponsored by outside persons or entities which are permitted to take place at NSHE facilities. "Program or activity involving children" does not include events (such as concerts, plays, sporting events) or facilities (such as restaurants or stores) that are open to the public.

(B/R 3/13)

Section 4. Policies for the Protection of Children

1. Reports of Child Abuse or Neglect by All NSHE Personnel. All NSHE employees and volunteers, who have reasonable cause to believe that child abuse or neglect has occurred at an NSHE facility or during NSHE programs or activities, must report the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or a child welfare agency, as soon as possible and within 24 hours. Retaliation against any individual who makes a report of child abuse or neglect is prohibited.

2. Supervision and Protection of Children. All children who participate in NSHE programs and activities must be appropriately supervised at all times. A child must be immediately removed from a dangerous situation involving suspected child abuse or neglect or other inappropriate conduct, or which presents a threat to the child's health and safety.

3. Policy and Procedure. In order to implement these child protection policies, NSHE institutions and System Administration must:
    a) Periodically (at least annually) inventory all programs or activities that involve children under the age of 18 years, such as, daycare facilities, summer camps and programs, sport camps, research studies and other activities or programs that are specifically intended to involve children under the age of 18 years;
    b) Periodically review (at least annually) the security of programs and activities involving children, including considering measures that may be appropriate for the protection of students from sex offenders who are registered with the institution's police departments;
    c) Provide for a uniform procedure for the approval of the use of facilities by outside persons or entities for programs or activities involving children, and requiring written acknowledgment of NSHE and institution policy and procedure for the protection of children;
    d) Identify all mandatory reporters of child abuse, pursuant to the provisions of NRS 432B.220-NRS 432B.250 and provide training materials regarding the mandatory reporting requirements;
    e) Provide a copy of this policy, and any supplemental institution policy and procedure, for the protection of children to all employees and volunteers who supervise or work in programs or activities involving children;
    f) Publicize this policy, and any supplemental institution policy and procedure for the protection of children on the institution or System website, including the Division of Child and Family Services toll-free telephone number and/or other law enforcement telephone numbers to receive reports of child abuse or neglect;
    g) Conduct appropriate investigations of all incidents of alleged child abuse or neglect, and provide confidential notice of such incidents to the Chancellor and Chair of the Board of Regents.

(B/R 3/13)