



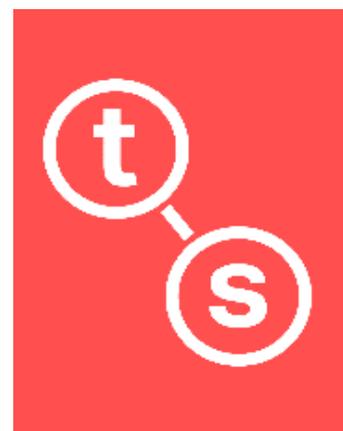
Training Child Safety



For coaches, service-team'ers and staff



2022





Hand-out Training Child Safety 2022

Welcome to this online Child Safety training for TeenStreet. It's great that you are volunteering at TeenStreet this year. In this training we will take you through the policy around child safety.

During every TeenStreet activity there is a child safety officer present. A Child Safety Officer is responsible for making sure that everyone who is a volunteer, outreach worker or employee of Operation Mobilization, is aware of the policy around the safety of children during TeenStreet activities. It is important to provide the correct guidance and training. The Child Safety Officer knows where the right help is needed in this difficult process.

While most people will agree that child safety is important, many will not always feel comfortable talking about it or hearing about it. It is not just a topic that is often discussed, it is a sensitive topic and maybe you already have questions or it brings up certain emotions or feelings for you. Do not be afraid to contact us.

In this training we want to let you know how we deal with child safety at TeenStreet, what we expect of you, how you recognize abuse and mistreatment and what you should do if you are worried, so that you can help break the cycle. Because "it doesn't stop, not by itself."

The Child Safety Policy

In the registration for TeenStreet, you were able to read the Child Safety Policy and you have digitally agreed to this policy. This policy is also included as a copy in the e-mail confirming your registration. Before starting at TeenStreet, every volunteer must have followed the Child Safety training. At the moment you arrive at the event, you will receive the summarized Child Safety Policy and every volunteer needs to sign it at that moment. The short version of the Child Safety Policy is attached as an appendix to this document.

In this way we can guarantee Child Safety and we follow the guidelines of the government. Each country has its own Child Safety Policy, which is in line with the policy of Operation Mobilization and the national laws of the country where TeenStreet is organized.

Functions of the Policy

TeenStreet takes the well-being and safety of children and teens very seriously and for that reason a Child Safety Policy has been created. This policy has 3 main functions:

- Protect and monitor the welfare of children (<18 years old)
- To protect adults from false accusations
- Protect the integrity of the organization

The policy is certainly an important part, but that doesn't get us there. It is important that when you work with children and/or teens, you know what your responsibilities are, know how to respond if you find yourself in such a situation, and what we expect of you. After all, you can sometimes find yourself in a situation just like that.

1. Responsibility

We want to protect and monitor the well-being of children and you as a volunteer. That is why we have included a code of behavior in the Child Safety Policy. Which means that:



Respect

You show respect and dignity in the way you speak to children and teenagers and how you behave in their presence (including on social media).



You have read and signed the Policy. A police record or certificate of good behavior is required.



CHILD PROTECTIVE

You are responsible for the safety of children and teenagers in an TeenStreet setting. You are responsible for your own behavior at all times. That you also pay attention to others who behave in a suspect manner around children and on the campsite. Be alert to the behavior of other volunteers present at TeenStreet. And be alert to teen-to-teen abuse, situations where an older teen pressures a younger one, or encourages them to act in ways they are not emotionally ready for.



There is always a minimum of 2 supervisors (m/f) present with a group of children or teenagers (m/f). Male supervisor on boys, female supervisor on girls.



You are never alone with a child or teen and you never touched a child. You never exposed a child to unsafe materials without permission, nor do you make relationship/contact with them through social media. You respect the child's boundaries at all times when it comes to contact.



You always make a report to the Child Safety Officer if you have any concerns.

2. What is maltreatment and abuse

Child abuse is the inflicting of physical and/or mental damage on children and teens through violence, neglect and/or omission. Research shows that the age of the victims are usually between 10 and 19 years. Several types can be recognized.



PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical abuse: actual or potential physical harm perpetrated by another person, adult or child. It may involve hitting, shaking, poisoning, drowning and burning. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child.



EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Emotional abuse: persistent emotional maltreatment that impacts on a child's emotional development. Emotionally abusive acts include restriction of movement, degrading, humiliating, bullying (including cyber bullying), and threatening, scaring, discriminating, ridiculing or other non-physical forms of hostile or rejecting treatment. This video gives a very clear explanation of this type: [\(61\) Emotional violence: How to recognize it? - YouTube](#)



SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual abuse: Through pressure or manipulation, the adult forces the child to perform sexual acts. This is usually done with open aggression or violence. It may also mean that a child is involved in watching sexual/pornographic images and activities and is encouraged to do the same. Sexting is an example of this. It often also involves emotional blackmail, sham love and bribery. Even if the sexual abuse is committed by someone under the age of 18, it is still considered sexual abuse.



RELIGIOUS
ABUSE

Spiritual/Religious Abuse: This type of abuse often occurs in the form of manipulation, in which religion, God or faith are used as a means of control or to exert unhealthy/abusive power over the child. Here, emotional abuse is coupled with abuse of power based on faith/religion.



Ignoring
Your Needs

Physical neglect: The child does not receive the care he or she needs. With physical neglect, emotional neglect also plays a role. The parent has low concern for providing the basic needs of food, clothing, protection, and care.



EMOTIONAL NEGLECT

Emotional neglect: In material terms, the child is cared for, but otherwise the child is left to fend for himself. The child receives no attention, affection or security. The child is emotionally very much alone and is not stimulated to further develop socially, cognitively and emotionally.

3. Signs

Now that you know the different types of abuse and neglect, it is also important to know what the signs are so that you can give the child the help that is needed in the end. It is important to break the circle of abuse and silence. But it is not easy. The abuse often escapes the view of those around it and leads a hidden life in the seclusion of the family. The pressure on the child to keep a secret is great and in the process the child is afraid that he/she will not be believed or is afraid of the consequences. This silence makes it incredibly difficult for the outside world to recognize it. Because you need hard evidence for this. What can you look out for?

- The teen is afraid of contact (shy and avoids questions and/or attention or avoids eye contact).
- Negative self-image (expressing negativity about themselves; or even caring less).
- Lower school results or stay away from school.
- Suddenly changed behavior (a teenager who was very friendly before suddenly becomes quiet and reserved).
- Uncertainty and fear (e.g. not daring to go to camp or on a group trip).
- No or little self-confidence (asking a lot of confirmation, e.g., "Am I doing it right?").
- Strongly fluctuating and/or busy behavior (being very excited one moment and sitting in a corner the next).
- Unable to concentrate.
- Distrusting people (often asking about your motives).
- Running away behavior.
- Having problems with friendships and relationships.
- Being depressed.
- Stealing.
- Self-destructive behavior (such as eating disorders, self-harm, and addictions).

In most cases, it is a combination of signs that can lead to a suspicion of child abuse.

What can you do?

If you suspect child abuse, without the teenager having spoken to you about it directly, it is important to discuss this with the Child Safety Officer. Don't keep walking around with this, you are helping the child/teenager with this. When you do nothing, you are already involved.

Imagine if you were involved as a coach in a teen activity....

After a group discussion in a small group, the other teens happily walk away to join in a game of volleyball. But there is one teenage girl who remains silent and uncomfortable. You notice as a coach that there is something more. You sit down next to her and say 'I see you're not in such a hurry, is everything okay? Is there anything? You know I always want to listen to you'. And then all of a sudden she starts crying and slowly she tells you that things are really not that good at home. That she is afraid to go home, because she doesn't know what she will find when she gets home. Carefully she continues....she tells you that her father drinks a lot and that when he is so drunk, he doesn't know what he is doing anymore and regularly hits her and yells terrible things at her. You remain silent and you listen first to the whole story she tells you.

What do you do when a child/teenager tells you that he/she is being mistreated or abused?



Stay calm. Let the child/teen tell his/her story and listen patiently.



Active listening

Take the teen seriously. Pay attention to nonverbal signs. Don't ask "but" or "why" questions. Let the child/teen know that they did the right thing; 'it's not their fault'.



Do not suggest answers in your questioning. This can confuse the memory.



COMMUNICATION
PRIVACY

Never promise to keep the secret, but let the child/teen know that we need to inform others to address the situation. You cannot keep a secret. Tell the child/teen that you are glad for the trust he/she has put in you and let it be known that you will call a Child Safety Officer.



DON'T SPREAD
PANIC NEWS

Do not talk to people who are not involved. Everything the child/teen shares is strictly private - between you, the child/teen, the Child Safety Officer and the leadership team.

Never talk to the suspected "abuser."



Call the Child Safety Officer and do not delay the reporting process. If in doubt, don't wait and never walk around with anything! Thereby, you have the responsibility to make a report of it.

Acknowledgement

I can imagine that when you hear the story of the teenage girl mentioned earlier that you don't understand how her father would do this to her. How can a parent do this to their child?

Yes, I understand this. But parents who mistreat their child are not directly bad. There may be circumstances where parents have a short temper. Although this should never be a reason to abuse a child. In some cases there is also a parenting problem that has gotten out of hand and the abuse is an expression of helplessness by the parent. There are often several problems within the family and often parents themselves have not learned otherwise. Usually they were mistreated or abused in their own childhood. I advise you to be careful with your own opinion and judgment. As TeenStreet, we think we should do everything we can to help parents with their responsibility to their children.



Ending

Of course we all want to prevent this, but we can't start blaming people for this in advance. We don't have to let it continue, we can stop the unsafe situation so that we do everything possible to let a child grow up in a safe environment. You now know the different signs of abuse and maltreatment so you can take action by talking to the Child Safety Officer and reporting it.



The information you have just heard may change your view and make you see only what is not going well, that you will look at it with a magnifying glass. But I want to encourage you to also look at the great stories. The stories of children who are given a warm and loving childhood, because there are many more of those. A loving and warm childhood, where the child or teen is seen as God intended. Every child, every teenager is deserving that.

"Because if it stops, it stops. It stops when you do something. Because you do something, you break through the circle where the truth is spoken".

Child Safety Officer for TeenStreet Europe 2022 is:

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General conditions: Policy of Behavior - Child Safety - Data Protection

The policy of behavior regarding the Child Safety Policy and the KLS is also included in the manual that every volunteer receives. Are you unable or unwilling in good conscience to sign the statement; please contact the Home Office before submitting your application.

- I do everything in my power to prevent sexual assault and other forms of violence during TeenStreet, build-up week and tear down. This is why I strengthen the youth entrusted to us and try to protect them from physical and mental harm.
 - I respect the individual boundary of each child, teen, service team or staff member. Conversations about sexuality should always be voluntary.
 - I will keep any interaction with a young person entrusted to me transparent. Not allowed to be alone with a child in a place where you cannot be seen by other people.
 - I do not approve of verbal or non-verbal sexual behavior.
 - I will not abuse the position I have as an adult for sexual interaction with those entrusted to me or to satisfy my own sexual desire.
 - I am also not permitted to have contact (establish a private relationship) with a child via social media; Skype, msn, Facebook, Instagram, whatsapp, etc without parental permission.
- If I see a staff/service team member cross a line (on TeenStreet property and off) I will not look the other way, but will write down my observations and contact TeenStreet's child safety officer or call the emergency number, to discuss further follow-up with trained people. I take immediate action.
- I understand that if a complaint is made against me regarding child abuse during the time I am under the responsibility of TeenStreet leadership, the allegation will be closely investigated in cooperation with appropriate (civil) authorities.

By signing this document, i certify that:

- I will follow TeenStreet's Child Safety Policy.
 - I have read the Child Safety Policy
 - I have followed the Child Safety training course
 - I will hand over a Police Record
- I have not been convicted of any criminal offence of bodily injury , ill-treatment of persons subject to protection or any offence against sexual self-determination, against life or any offence against personal liberty or corresponding offences under the criminal law of any country and that no such criminal proceedings have been or are pending against me.
- I have never abused a child and i have no sexual feelings towards children.
- I consent to this statement being stored for the purposes of the Child Safety policy.
- I consent with the Data Protection Agreement, the Teenstreet Kingdom Lifestyle Statement, the Adult Policies and the General Conditions of the event.
- I understand that there will be consequences for breaking these rules, based on the seriousness of the offence. This may include being removed from active Teenstreet participation. If the consequences include going home or having to be taken off site , that will be at my expense.
- I assure that I have given all medical, emergency, and contact information pertaining to my health and wellbeing.

Full Name: _____ Date of birth _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____