

## Child Protection Protocols for Events Volunteer Agreement

During an event, our role is to model the best Christian care of children and young people in the context with which we work.

### **All Volunteers:**

1. **A Child Protection Officer** should be appointed to monitor potential risk areas and/ or behaviour during events. You are accountable to this leader. Children, youth or team members may come to this leader with a complaint or concern.
2. **You must complete screening processes** including completing any volunteer application forms. You should complete any child protection training required for the event.
3. **You are not allowed to be alone with a child at any time unless the child is your own family.** Always have another leader with you who is not related to you – i.e. not you brother, sister, spouse, son or daughter OR always have more than one child with you. If individual counselling or prayer ministry is required, do this in the view of others.

### **For ministry directly involving Children or young people:**

***\*You MUST have a verified WWCC number or you MUST remain under supervision of Children's ministry team at ALL times.***

4. **You cannot take children to the toilet alone.** It is most appropriate and advisable that parents and guardians be responsible for toileting children if feasible during the event. However, should you be required to care for children in this manner, again always have another unrelated adult with you or more than one child. Direct the child to the toilet, making sure there are no other adults inside first. If there are adults in the toilet, wait for them to leave or politely ask them to do so. Do not help a child with toileting (unless it is obviously necessary -in which case you must have 2 unrelated adults supervising children being assisted). Babies' nappies should be changed by parents. Toilet blocks should be monitored for team members, outside service providers or children loitering or following children to these areas.
5. **You should not leave children alone and unsupervised.**

6. **You should avoid any behaviour that could be wrongly perceived.** You may not actively seek touching or hugging or kiss children or ask them to sit on your lap. You should not initiate wrestling or tickling. You must limit your interaction to commonly accepted public expressions of friendship
7. **You cannot take children off walking or participating in any activity where you are not in view of other team members.**
8. **Any swimming activity must be done as a group.** Swimwear needs to be modest
9. **You cannot hit or shout at a child.** Children should be given positive direction. If possible, allow parents and guardians to deal appropriately with misbehaviour, but give clear guidelines about your expectations to children first.
10. **You must have sufficient leaders** in order that children can be properly supervised according to their age, ability level and the activity.
11. **You should not transport children alone** unless that child is your own.
12. **First Aid should be given by the designated First Aid Officer.**
13. **Any accident or injury or other incident requires an Incident Report Form to be completed and witnessed.**

**I agree that:**

- I will ensure the well-being and safety of all children and young people in my capacity as a volunteer of Rivers Edge Church
- I will not be alone with any child not related to me at any time
- I will not be involved in toileting with children alone
- I will not counsel or pray with children alone and out of sight of others
- I will not kiss, cuddle, wrestle or tickle a child in any way that could be interpreted as inappropriate. I will not ask children to sit on my lap
- I will not hit or shout at a child at any time
- I will ensure my dress is suitably modest
- I will notify the Child Protection Officer if I am concerned about the behaviour of any other person in relation to children