



Child protection and safeguarding

AT A GLANCE



Aim

Protect children and young people from boundary violations, violence and abuse



Basis

In Germany: protection mandate of youth services (§ 8a SGB VIII) and exclusion of people with relevant convictions (§ 72a SGB VIII)



Attitude

Look, speak up, act – nobody is left alone with a suspicion



criminal record check



code of conduct



contact person



emergency plan



Building blocks of a safeguarding policy

- Risk analysis: where do risks arise in our meetings and camps (overnight stays, changing, one-to-one situations)?
- A code of conduct signed by all leaders
- Extended criminal record certificate as agreed with the youth welfare office (usually free for volunteers in Germany)
- Named contact persons and a clear complaints procedure for children and parents
- Training for all leaders with regular refreshers



Closeness and distance – example rules

- Hold one-to-one talks in visible places, keep the door open
- No showering or changing together with children
- Photos only with permission, no private chats with individual children
- Physical contact only when the child wants it and the situation calls for it (e.g. comfort, first aid)



If you suspect something

Calm

Stay calm, listen, do not promise anything you cannot keep.

Note

Write down observations and statements factually, with the date.

Involve

Inform the contact person or association leadership – do not investigate alone.

Advice

Get advice from a qualified child protection specialist (via the youth office or your association).



Acute danger: call 112 (Europe-wide). Child helpline in many European countries: 116 111. In Germany also: police 110, helpline on sexual abuse 0800 22 55 530.