

Information for volunteers about our commitment to child safety and protection



everyone's family

The Smith Family takes the safety of children and young people very seriously.

Every volunteer has a role to play in safeguarding children and young people from harm.

The Smith Family has a Child Protection Framework. It includes our commitment to always:

- **act in the best interests of children and young people**
Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions that affect them and are taken seriously.
- **provide safe environments**
We comply with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.
- **take action to protect children and young people from abuse, neglect and violence**
If we have a reasonable suspicion that a child or young person is at risk of harm, we do not delay. The Smith Family has Child Safety Contact Persons who assist with internal Child Safety Alerts and with reporting, when necessary, to child protection authorities.

The Framework explains that:

- All volunteers, in ongoing roles, must have a current Working with Children Clearance if they:
 - work directly with children and young people
 - work indirectly, with access to children and young people's personal and sensitive information on our data base
- If your role requires you to be interviewed, we will ask you and your referees about your attitude to and experience with children and young people.
- We will ask you to complete child protection training. This might include an online module and/or face to face sessions.

Your manager will talk with you about your role in safeguarding children & young people and will make sure you know how to contact your local Smith Family Child Safety Contact Person.

If your volunteer role involves working directly with children

The Framework outlines the responsibilities of all team members – including volunteers. This includes:

- Avoid being alone with children & young people: it's safer for you and them.
- Do not transport children in private vehicles.
- Do not have any contact with children and families outside of agreed Smith Family programs & activities.
In communities where you already know the children and families with whom you are volunteering, work out with your manager how to manage this relationship so you do not breach The Smith Family's child protection requirements.

The Framework also explains what safe supervision looks like in practice and how this way of working applies all aspects of a volunteer role.

If you are concerned about a child's safety you must:

- Act to protect – don't delay
- Contact your manager and/or Child Safety Contact Person
- Complete a Smith Family Child Safety Alert
- If the risk of harm is imminent, contact Child Protection Authorities for advice and police if immediate attendance is required

Regarding privacy and confidentiality

When you submit an internal Child Safety Alert or report to external child protection authorities:

- Always tell your manager (unless the report is about them – then tell The Smith Family's Child Safety Contact Person)
- Always cooperate with authorities
- Always be factual
- Always ask us for support, information, advice or counselling services if you need to

Child Protection Information on The Smith Family website

Our statement of commitment to safeguarding children and young people from abuse and neglect
Privacy and Confidentiality Policy
Information for families