

Title: Child Abuse Policy

Policy and Procedure Number: 007

Effective Date: January 19, 2013

Revised Date: March 9, 2015

Approval Authority: Board of Directors

Purpose:

To provide youth a safe and secure environment, free from incidents of misconduct or inappropriate behavior.

Basis of Understanding:

1. The terms “child”, “children”, or “youth” include all persons under eighteen (18) years of age.
 - a. The term “Child Abuse” shall mean any of the following:
 - b. Any act or failure to act by a perpetrator which causes non-accidental serious physical injury to a child.
 - c. Any act or failure to act by a perpetrator which causes non-accidental serious mental injury to, or sexual abuse, or sexual exploitation of a child.
 - d. Any recent act, failure to act, or series of such acts, or failures to act by a perpetrator which creates an imminent risk of serious physical injury to, or sexual abuse, or sexual exploitation of a child.
 - e. Serious physical neglect by a perpetrator constituting prolonged or repeated lack of supervision or the failure to provide essential of life, including adequate medical care, which endangers a child’s life or development, or impairs the child’s functioning.
 - f. No child shall be deemed to be physically or mentally abused based on injuries that result solely from environmental factors that are beyond the control of the parent or person responsible for the child’s welfare, such as inadequate housing, furnishings, income, clothing, and medical care.

Policy

1. This Child Abuse Policy applies to all Cornerstone Youth Center’s staff members and/or volunteers.
2. This Child Abuse Policy applies to all Cornerstone activities in which any volunteer, employee, and/or Board member interacts with youth.
3. This policy will be administered by the Executive Director and shall be applied to any person who is hired, appointed, and/or volunteers with youth. The Executive Director may appoint any staff person the responsibility to maintain clearances and/or training.
4. All staff and/or volunteers are required to complete orientation training concerning Child Abuse policy, reporting procedures, and protecting youth from abuse in the organization before being granted volunteer status.
5. All staff and/or volunteers are required to obtain the following clearances:
 - a. PA State Criminal History
 - b. PA Child Abuse History
 - c. FBI Criminal History and Fingerprinting (Required by all staff or any volunteer that has not resided in PA the last 10 years)

6. All staff and/or volunteer clearances must be renewed every thirty-six (36) months.
7. Cornerstone Youth Center will provide any costs associated with obtaining any clearances required by paid staff. Cornerstone Youth Center may provide assistance for any volunteer if requested.
8. All mandatory reporting of abuse shall be consistent with the procedures outlined in Cornerstone Youth Center's *"Mandatory Procedures for Reporting Child Abuse"*.
9. No person who has been convicted of any form of child abuse and/or any criminal activity involving youth will be permitted to volunteer at Cornerstone.