



University of California  
San Francisco

# Managing Risk of Minors *in Student Programs*

Student Life

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# Questions You Should Be Asking

If you answer **YES** to any of the questions below, now is a great time to start thinking about ways to protect everyone involved in your RCO activities – *especially minors*.

- Is your RCO working under the direction of an organization such as a school, hospital, or community based non-profit?
- Does your RCO recruit and hire your own volunteers to work with minors in your program or event?
- Does your RCO mentor or tutor minors?
- Does your RCO operate a camp or event with overnight stays?

# How to Create a Culture of Safety

- Standards are clear
- Standards are enforced
- Everyone knows safety is part of their role
- Everyone takes warning signs seriously
- Students & staff report their concerns
- Morale is high
- Quality is institutionalized

# Resources

The University of California has partnered with [Praesidium](#) to identify best practices and create products and services that help organizations implement program operations when interacting with minors.

- Policy Best Practices & Models
- Screening Best Practices & Models
- Training Best Practices
- Monitoring and Supervision Best Practices & Models
- Responding Best Practices

# Policies

Policies define the bandwidth of acceptable behavior in an organization.

- Student & staff volunteer policies and procedures should relate to:
  - screening and selection of volunteers
  - training volunteers
  - interactions between volunteers & minors (e.g. electronic communication)
  - response to suspicious or inappropriate interactions between volunteers and minors
  - response to incidents or allegations of abuse
  - reporting allegations of suspected abuse

# Screening

Organizations should do everything possible to avoid giving access to someone who should not be in a position of trust.

- Criminal background checks
- Comprehensive screening & selection

# Training

Effective training can provide students and staff with the information they need to identify high-risk patterns of behavior and high-risk program characteristics.

- Training must be specific, frequent, and useful
- Training must teach how offenders operate
- Training must teach how to recognize:
  - suspicious or inappropriate interactions
  - policy violations
  - suspected abuse
- Training must teach how to respond effectively

# Monitoring & Supervision

When students, staff, and minors are adequately supervised, they are less likely to engage in inappropriate interactions with others

- Monitoring requires the systematic use of a variety of methods



# Responding

Once an organization learns of a concern or allegation about the treatment of a client, swift and determined action, including reports to authorities, must be taken.

# Where Should You Start?

- Take the *Know Your Score!*<sup>™</sup> Online Self- Assessment
  - *KYS!* is an online questionnaire to help determine what abuse prevention practices your RCO already has in place and assess where improvements are needed
  - At the end of the questionnaire, your RCO will receive a blueprint to implement best practices and links to downloadable resources to strengthen any potential exposures
- Contact [Student Life](#) for further instruction on how to access the online questionnaire

# Contacts

If you have any questions or need any additional support please contact:

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