

## **Title: Policy on Disclosure of Abuse by a Child at Blackstrap Youth Camp**

### **1. Introduction:**

1.1 This policy outlines the procedures and responsibilities regarding the disclosure of abuse by a child at Blackstrap Youth Camp, in adherence to Saskatchewan and Canadian laws and regulations.

### **2. Definitions:**

2.1 Child: A camper enrolled in Blackstrap Youth Camp, typically aged between 8 and 13 years.

2.2 Abuse: Any form of physical, emotional, sexual, or psychological harm inflicted upon a camper.

2.3 Disclosure: The camper who reports or discloses abuse.

2.4 Mandated Reporter: Any staff member or volunteer at Blackstrap Youth Camp who is required by law to report suspected cases of child abuse.

### **3. Responsibilities of Mandated Reporters:**

3.1 All staff members and volunteers at Blackstrap Youth Camp are mandated reporters and are obligated to report any suspected or disclosed cases of child abuse immediately.

3.2 Mandated reporters must ensure the safety and well-being of the camper while maintaining confidentiality to the extent possible, as per Saskatchewan and Canadian law.

### **4. Procedures for Disclosure:**

4.1 When a camper discloses abuse to a staff member or volunteer, the following steps must be taken:

- a) Listen attentively and calmly to the camper without judgment or interruption.
- b) Reassure the camper that they are not to blame and that they are doing the right thing by disclosing the abuse.
- c) Avoid asking leading questions that may influence the camper's account of the abuse.
- d) Document the disclosure accurately and promptly.

4.2 If the camper is in immediate danger, take necessary steps to ensure their safety, including contacting emergency services.

4.3 Inform the camper that the information disclosed will be shared with appropriate authorities to ensure their protection and well-being.

### **5. Reporting Procedures:**

5.1 Mandated reporters must report suspected or disclosed cases of child abuse to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Social Services or the appropriate child protection agency.

5.2 Reports must include detailed information about the camper, the nature of the abuse, and any other relevant details that may assist in the investigation.

## **6. Confidentiality and Privacy:**

6.1 Mandated reporters must maintain the confidentiality of the camper's disclosure to the fullest extent possible, disclosing information only to relevant authorities involved in the investigation and protection of the camper.

6.2 Information about the disclosure should be shared on a need-to-know basis and handled with sensitivity and discretion.

## **7. Training and Awareness:**

7.1 All staff members and volunteers at Blackstrap Youth Camp should receive regular training on recognizing signs of child abuse and their legal obligations to report such cases.

7.2 Blackstrap Youth Camp shall provide resources and support to facilitate compliance with reporting requirements.

## **8. Review and Revision:**

8.1 This policy shall be reviewed periodically to ensure compliance with changes in Saskatchewan and Canadian law and best practices in child protection.

8.2 Any revisions to the policy shall be communicated to all staff members, volunteers, and relevant stakeholders and implemented promptly.

## **9. Compliance**

9.1 Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action, including termination of employment or legal consequences, as per applicable laws and regulations.

## **10. Implementation:**

10.1 This policy shall be implemented immediately upon approval by the SYDC, and communicated to all staff members, volunteers, contractors, parents/guardians, and relevant stakeholders of Blackstrap Youth Camp.

This policy serves as a guideline for staff members and volunteers at Blackstrap Youth Camp, ensuring prompt and appropriate action in cases of child abuse disclosure, in compliance with provincial and national legal requirements.