



Rotary Youth Exchange Florida Abuse Reporting Procedure

For the INBOUND STUDENT or OUTBOUND STUDENT:

We expect that your exchange year will be one of the best experiences of your life. However, there is the possibility that you will be the victim of assault or abuse. Your safety is very important to us, and we can only help you if we know that you have a problem. **“Exchange students have the right to adhere to their own standards regarding their bodies. While respecting vast cultural differences, each student has the right to judge how they deal with unwelcome sexual contact or related activity including nudity, exposure, touch, suggestive comments and sexual intercourse.”**

If you have been or feel threatened with physical, psychological or sexual assault or abuse you should follow this procedure:

1. Call the Hotline phone number provided to you. This phone will be answered 24 hours per day.
2. Report the situation and circumstances to your Youth Exchange Officer (YEO) immediately.
3. If you cannot contact your YEO or prefer that the YEO not be informed, report the situation to the District Chairman or other District YE leader, or to an officer of Rotary Youth Exchange Florida. The contact information for these individuals is on the back cover of this handbook. You may call collect from anywhere if you are involved in this type of situation. You may also approach the President of your Host Rotary Club or ANY Rotarian.
4. If you cannot report your situation to either your YEO, District Chair, or RYE-Florida Chair, then report the situation to any member of the local District's Youth Exchange Committee.

It is important that you not delay in reporting any incident or threat of assault or abuse. Be sure that someone in the District Exchange Program understands the seriousness of your situation. **WE WANT TO HELP! OUR CONCERN IS YOUR WELLNESS and HEALTH, NOT SENDING YOU HOME.** If Nothing Happens When You Report The Situation, Report It Again And Continue Until Someone Takes It Seriously. Make Sure We Understand That Your Situation Is Serious.

For the YEO, ROTARIAN and/or District Youth Exchange Committee Member:

The procedure that shall be followed by a Rotarian receiving information about an assault or abuse case is:

1. Rotarians and volunteers should know they have a legal, ethical and moral responsibility to report abuse and/or harassment to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.
2. Inform the District's Youth Exchange Committee Chairman IMMEDIATELY, or another District YE leader or officer of RYE-Florida.
3. Notify the local Child Protective Agency. This agency will assist law enforcement in the investigation and also provide professional and independent support services to the student as they

deem appropriate.

4. Only those individuals and/or agencies referenced above should be notified in order to protect the privacy of both the victim and accused during investigation.
5. The District Protection Officer will take charge of coordinating and overseeing the student's safety and an investigation into the facts of the situation.
6. No Inbound student will be sent home nor any Outbound student brought home for reporting such a situation unless the student's personal safety requires it and the District Chair has approved the return.
7. Ensure that the student receives immediate support services, including a non-Rotarian counselor.
8. Contact the student's parents or legal guardian. If the student is away from home, the student and his or her parents should decide whether to stay in country or return home. If the student stays in country, written authorization from the student's parents or legal guardian is required. If the student and the student's parents choose for the student to return home, consult with police before making travel arrangements. If an investigation is pending, the police may not approve of the student leaving the country.
9. Remove alleged abuser or harasser from all contact with any other young participants in Rotary programs and activities while investigations are conducted.

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