

Accountability Guidelines

The following guidelines are designed to: (1) protect the children and young adults living at New Life Children's Home (NLCH) from various forms of abuse, (2) establish a degree of accountability and protection for volunteer work team members, and (3) encourage interns and short term team members to model behavior and appearance which honors God during their visit to NLCH. In order to serve on a short term team or as an intern at NLCH, you must agree to the guidelines below:

1. **Accountability Partners:** When interacting in any way with the children or young people at NLCH, you must be accompanied by at least one other team member or intern who can serve as an "accountability partner," and any interaction should always be in one of the "neutral" areas of NLCH. You should never enter the rooms of any of the children or staff of NLCH or invite any of the children or staff of NLCH into the guest dormitory. If you are serving as an intern alone at NLCH, and there is no other intern or short-term team member here to serve as an accountability partner, you must only interact with the children in neutral, predescribed areas of NLCH, and never alone with only one child.
1. **Physical Appearance:** Be appropriate and modest. Female team members should be especially careful not to sexually challenge adolescent boys by their physical appearance; for example, halter tops, tank tops, other tight-fitting clothes, and short shorts should be avoided. Male team members should also avoid short shorts and should wear shirts even when working or playing sports.
1. **Earrings, Other Jewelry and Hair:** We discourage males from wearing any earrings or pony tails. It is requested that males and females not wear any kind of body piercing jewelry. Be modest in the display of jewelry. Be modest in hair coloring. If you do color your hair, it should be a natural hair color.
1. **Romantic Activity:** Dating or other romantic activity among unmarried work team members should not be a part of your visit to NLCH. Since romantic activity among the children at NLCH is not permitted, modeling this behavior in front of them may provoke needless challenges. Of course, absolutely no romantic activity of any kind is allowed between work team members and the young people at NLCH; this includes (1) inappropriate physical touch and (2) romantic or sexually suggestive communication whether verbal, written, through body language, or even through inappropriate eye contact. We ask that married couples be modest in any display of affection in public. Short hugs and kisses are permissible when done in good taste.
1. **Physical Contact:** Team members should be very cautious and discerning when making any physical contact with the children at NLCH. Male work team members

should avoid hugging adolescent females from NLCH and female work team members should avoid hugging adolescent males from NLCH; the only possible exception would be very short “congratulatory” or “greeting” hugs. Regarding perceived disciplinary problems involving children or young people at NLCH, simply report your concern to an NLCH staff member; never administer any kind of discipline yourself.

1. **Language:** Glorify God in what you say to the children and young people at NLCH. Obscene or sexually oriented language, whether in English or Spanish, is not permitted at any time.

1. **Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco:** Alcohol, illegal drugs, and tobacco products are not allowed at NLCH.

1. **Consequences:** Failure to follow these guidelines may result in a work team member being sent back home at his or her expense, depending on the offense. Any type of sexual or physical abuse will be treated as a violation of the law.

I have read and understand the above guidelines and agree to follow them during my visit to NLCH.

Signature _____ Date _____