



**Madison Area YMCA  
Child Abuse Prevention  
Parent Information**

Reviewed by YMCA Board of Directors

The Madison Area YMCA regards child abuse as a very serious subject. The safety of all children in YMCA programs is of paramount importance. As much as we would like to believe otherwise, the world is not necessarily safe for children. Child abuse can occur anywhere and the YMCA works diligently to prevent and combat child abuse.

YMCA staff have been training on the recognition and prevention of child abuse. The YMCA has established a Code of Conduct that all staff must adhere to as a condition of employment.

The YMCA communicates with parents regarding child safety protocols and we ask for parental assistance and help in reporting any variances from our established standards. These standards are recommended by the YMCA of the USA and have been implemented at the Madison Area YMCA for the safety of all children.

**Child Safety Protocols:**

- A child should never be alone with a staff member (but may be separate, if in full view of others).
- YMCA staff except for issues relating directly to current YMCA activities should not contact children. (I.e., no letters, email, telephone calls, visits, non-YMCA excursions, etc.).
- Children should not receive excessive gifts of any kind from individual YMCA staff members.
- Children should always be transported in YMCA identified vehicles (or appropriately identified vendor-operated vehicles), never in a staff member's personal vehicle, and never alone.
- YMCA staff members are not permitted to baby-sit YMCA members or program participants. Any exceptions must be approved in writing by the YMCA president.
- Parents who become aware of hazing, bullying, or similar behavior should report the incident to the YMCA. Such behavior is often the precursor of peer-to-peer abuse and must be addressed.
- Children should be encouraged to discuss their experiences with their parents and to identify any behavior or activity that makes them uncomfortable. Parents need to be aware that programs like gymnastics and aquatics require some physical contact between adult and child to provide the necessary instruction, coaching, and spotting. A single touch in a normally inappropriate place may not be an inappropriate touch if it occurred while trying to prevent an injury, etc.
- Staff members and authorized volunteers should have YMCA issued identification name badges or staff shirts. The identification should be visible whenever they are working with children.
- Staff shall portray a positive role model for youth by maintaining an attitude of respect, loyalty, patience, courtesy, tact, and maturity
- Some programs require parent sign-in and sign-out each day. Children in programs requiring adult drop-off and pick-up will only be released to pre-authorized individuals
- Participants and/or parents should be polled at each program's end both to identify strengths and potential problems and to evaluate the relationship between expectations and experiences.
- Statute in the state of New Jersey requires the YMCA to report cases of suspected abuse to the authorities. Should a parent arrive under the influence of drugs or alcohol, for the child's safety, staff may have no recourse but to contact the police.

Parents: If you see any behavior not consistent with the above standards please contact one of the following people:

Barry Kroll	Bob Conley	Krys Jensen
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