



# CHILD PROTECTION COMPLIANCE GUIDELINES

## Child Protection – Professional Behaviours

DFAT funded partners undertaking business on behalf of DFAT that involves working or contact with children are expected to adhere to the following behaviours while they are performing those duties:

- > treat all children with respect
- > not use language or behaviour towards children that is inappropriate, harassing, abusive, sexually provocative, demeaning or culturally inappropriate
- > not engage children under the age of 18<sup>6</sup> in any form of sexual intercourse<sup>7</sup> or sexual activity,<sup>8</sup> including paying for sexual services
- > wherever possible, ensure that another adult is present when working near children
- > not invite unaccompanied children into private residences, unless they are at immediate risk of injury or in physical danger
- > not sleep close to unsupervised children unless absolutely necessary, in which case the supervisor's permission must be obtained, and ensuring that another adult is present if possible (noting that this does not apply to an individual's own children)
- > never use any computers, mobile phones, video cameras, cameras or social media to exploit or harass children, or access child exploitation material through any medium
- > not use physical punishment on children
- > not hire children for domestic or other labour: which is inappropriate given their age or developmental stage; which interferes with their time available for education and recreational activities; or which places them at significant risk of injury
- > comply with all relevant Australian and local legislation, including labour laws in relation to child labour
- > immediately report concerns or allegations of child exploitation and abuse and policy non-compliance in accordance with appropriate procedures
- > immediately disclose all charges, convictions and other outcomes of an offence that relates to child exploitation and abuse, including those under traditional law, which occurred before or occurs during association with DFAT

<sup>6</sup> - Where the child is 16 years old or older and the other party is not more than 2 years older; and it can be established that the child consented to the relationship, an exception can be recorded promptly on personnel files

<sup>7</sup> - As defined under the Australian Criminal Code Act 1995

<sup>8</sup> - As defined under the Australian Criminal Code Act 1995

- > be aware of behaviour and avoid actions or behaviours that could be perceived by others as child exploitation and abuse

These behaviours are not intended to interfere with normal family interactions

### When photographing or filming a child or using children's images for work-related purposes:

- > take care to ensure local traditions or restrictions for reproducing personal images are adhered to before photographing or filming a child
- > obtain informed consent from the child and parent or guardian of the child before photographing or filming a child. An explanation of how the photograph or film will be used must be provided
- > ensure photographs, films, videos and DVDs present children in a dignified and respectful manner and not in a vulnerable or submissive manner. Children should be adequately clothed and not in poses that could be seen as sexually suggestive
- > ensure images are honest representations of the context and the facts
- > ensure file labels, meta data or text descriptions do not reveal identifying information about a child when sending images electronically or publishing images in any form

DFAT funded partners must use the Child Protection – Professional Behaviours as a Child Protection Code of Conduct, or embed those behaviours into their existing policies and processes.

## *Signature of Agreement – Child Protection Policy*

**Name of Project:**

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**Project Coordinator Name:**

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**Signature:**

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**Date:**

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*To read the full copy of DFAT Child Protection Policy click this link*

[child-protection-policy.pdf](#)