

**Basic Child Safety Information
for Young Friends Resource People
Summer 2017**

Abuse Prevention

Sadly, we know that sexual & child abuse can happen in any community. NEYM is committed to creating conditions that prevent abuse in our youth programs. Ways that RPs can help prevent abuse in Young Friends:

- **Follow child safety practices** such as showering and undressing only in RP areas, only touching YFs with consent, not being alone with a YF in isolated spaces, not engaging in any activity or conversation that a YF might perceive as sexual.
- Work with Nia and other RPs to **assess risk** of a given activity. Rule of thumb: as risk of physical or emotional harm increases, supervision, planning and follow up also needs to increase.
- Provide alternatives so that YFs may choose what they are comfortable with. For example: With physical games, include an option to cheer players on by the sidelines or keep score. With conversations on tender topics, designate a check-out space and give participants an option to pass or participate via writing.
- Model healthy boundaries and affirm assertive communication about touch and emotional self care.
- When you aren't sure if something is OK, ask.

Mandated Reporting

Different states vary in their mandated reporting laws and, as an RP, you do not need to memorize specific details of each state's laws. Here's what you **do** need to know about mandated reporting:

- **If you have reason to believe or suspect that a Young Friend is being abused, neglected, or put in "imminent risk of serious harm" by an adult you must report it to the Young Friends Coordinator ASAP.** Exception: If you believe the Young Friends Coordinator to be part of the abuse/harm/neglect, instead report to the Clerk of Permanent Board (currently Sarah Gant 617-964-9775).
- What will happen if you report to Nia that you suspect a YF is being abused? NEYM has expert advisors as well as legal counsel who Nia will work with to do what is legally required as well as what is most caring in the specific situation. Nia will only share names on a need to know basis. Nia will work with these Friends to 1) do whatever we can to help the YF, 2) ensure that the RP is being supported in following the child safety laws of the given state.
- If Nia & the NEYM advisors believe that a report does not need to be filed but you believe a report should be made, you have a right to make the report directly with the state.

Emergencies

A brief emergency protocol with important phone numbers will be given to you to keep in your nametag holder at Sessions. In case of a fire or other evacuation, group YFs by affinity group to take attendance.