



δίκτυο  
για τα δικαιώματα  
του παιδιού  
*Πέρα από λόγια και συμβάσεις*

network  
for children's  
rights  
*Beyond words and conventions*

# Child Safeguarding Policy

Pelopidas Nikolopoulos, Lawyer, Project Manager Child Protection Unit,  
[p.Nikolopoulos@ddp.gr](mailto:p.Nikolopoulos@ddp.gr), 2121214062

Gogo Chiou, Social worker, Child Protection Coordinator, Child Protection Unit,  
[g.chiou@ddp.gr](mailto:g.chiou@ddp.gr), 2121214062



# The Child Safeguarding Policy

concerns: *the behavior of professionals and volunteers towards children who participate in activities of the Network for Children's Rights (NCR) and receive services.*

Child: : Anyone under 18, according to the United Nations (UN) International Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).

Preserves its foundations and derives from:

- the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) - Legislation 2101/1992
- The Network for Children's Rights Code of Conduct
- Child safeguarding policies of International NGOs



# Purpose

**To ensure** that no child will be harmed or endangered during the course of their involvement in activities and projects of the Network for Children's Rights.

## Means of Achievement

Education

Evading possibilities of endangerment- Prevention

Detection


Management

Reporting



# Safeguarding the rights of children:

- set of policies, procedures and practices used to ensure the safety of children. The duty of the NCR is to ensure that its staff and the programs it implements:
  - I. will not harm children,
  - II. will not expose children to risk factors and abuse
  - III. It will report any concerns about the safety of children to the relevant authorities.

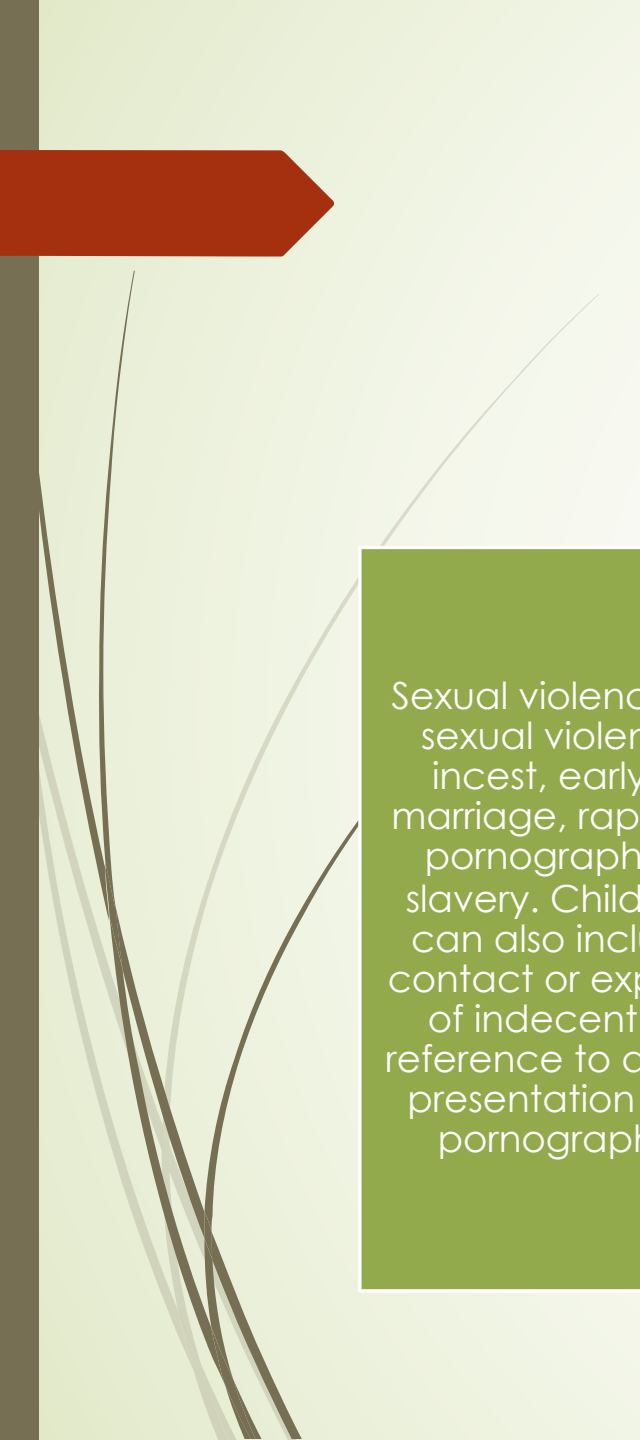


**Child abuse:** Any action or lack of action from individuals, institutions or procedures, which directly or indirectly harm children or harm their prospects for safe and healthy development until they reach adulthood. The main categories of actions or lack of actions are (but are not limited to):

Physical Violence: The use of force that produces real or possible bodily injuries (e.g. hitting, violent shakes, burning, female genital mutilation, torture).

Mental/Psychological Violence: Any humiliating or degrading treatment such as swearing-insulting, constant critique, undermining, constant belittlement, isolation.


Abandonment/ Neglect: Inability to cover the basic natural and/or psychological needs of the child, e.g. omission to provide food, clothing and/or safe housing, protection, neglecting to provide sufficient guidance or access to medical care.



Sexual violence: Any form of sexual violence including incest, early and forced marriage, rape, engaging in pornography and sexual slavery. Child sexual abuse can also include indecent contact or exposure, the use of indecent language in reference to a child, and the presentation of children as pornographic material.

Sexual Exploitation: Any exploitation or attempt of a stronger individual to exploit a weaker individual, first by gaining their trust or being an authority figure, for sexual purposes, including gaining economic, social, or political gain from the sexual exploitation of another. The sexual exploitation of a child under the age of consent is child sexual abuse and a criminal offense.

Commercial exploitation: Exploiting a child for one's own benefit, exposing them to work or participate in activities to the detriment of his or her physical or mental health, education, moral or socio-emotional development. The aforementioned exploitation includes child labor, among others.



Any persons affiliated with the Network for Children's Rights (staff, members, associates, volunteers, etc.) are **prohibited** from:

- Participating in any sexual activity with a child or having a sexual relationship with anyone under the age of 18
- Traveling or transporting a child on their own by their personal means of transportation
- Attacking or exercising physical or psychological abuse to children
- Being alone with a child in a closed-off space
- Expose a child to inappropriate images, movies, websites, including child pornography, extreme violence and radicalization





# Pictures – Social Media:

- ▶ The NCR does not display images of children, disclose their personal information, nor does it share any information with the media if there is a possibility that the rights or best interests of children could be jeopardized.
- ▶ Informed and explicit consent is required from the child and his/her parent/guardian before taking photos, videos or collecting personal information. This means clear and accessible information on how the Network for Children's Rights intends to use the communication material must be provided, the child must be informed that they are free to leave any activity, refuse participation in any communication material, request the use of a pseudonym instead of his / her own name and not to share his / her identification (such as his / her residence and name). Form E3 must be used for consent: Consent form for communication purposes.
- ▶ Any pictures of children (and any other details attached to the pictures) may not display them naked, in an inappropriate position, reveal where they live or any other personal information.

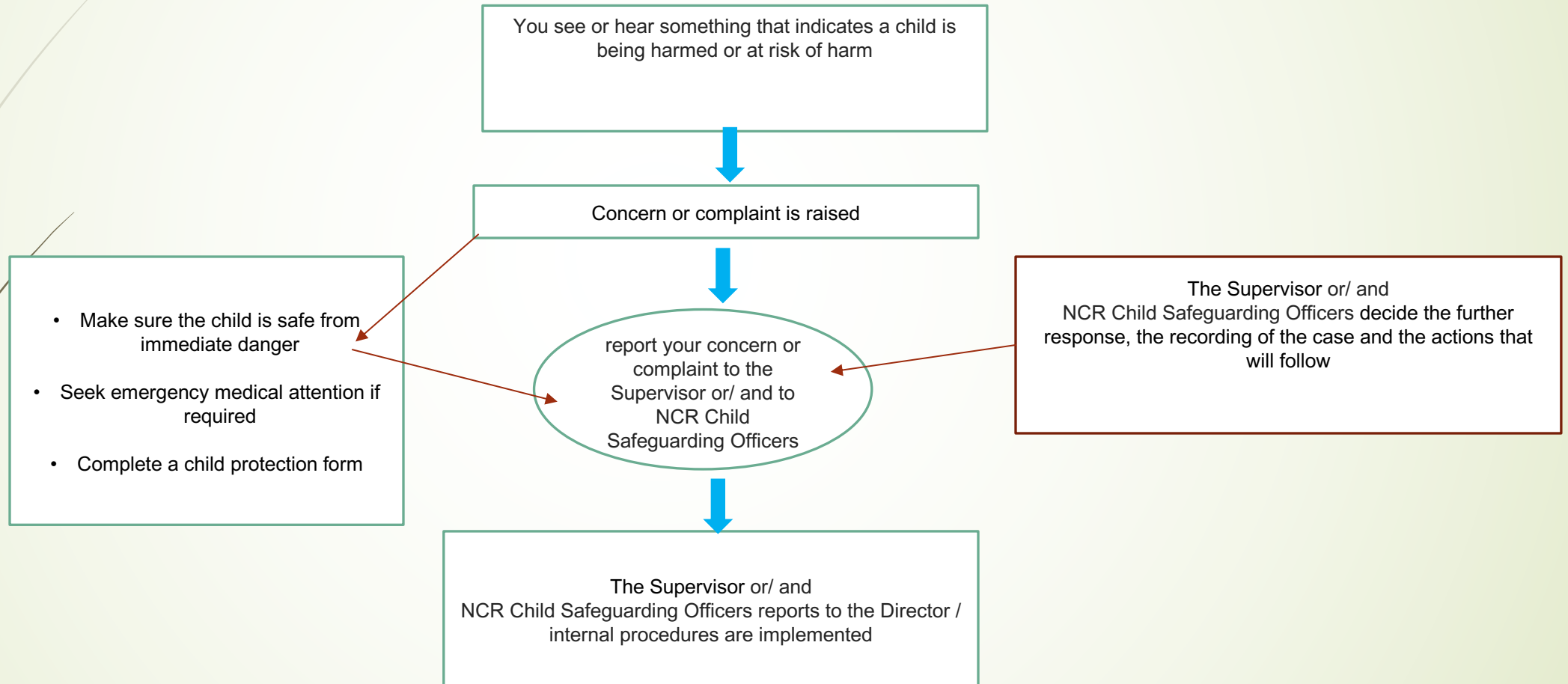




# In daily life..

- ▶ We are having an activity with the children and we want to upload a picture on Facebook/ Instagram.
- ▶ A teenager with whom we have developed a good relationship is sending us a friend request on Facebook.
- ▶ A child asks for a picture with us at the end of the year.
- ▶ A child asks to give us a hug.
- ▶ A teenager invites us to their birthday party.
- ▶ A child asks for our personal phone number.
  
- ▶ During an activity a child tells us they want to share a secret of something bad that happened to them.

- Listen to your concerns: In case of doubt, speak up!
- Focus on the child: Protecting the children is of outmost importance.
- Time matters: Secure timely, effective, reliable and appropriate answers to issues surrounding child protection.



## E1: Safeguarding Report

Fill out this form if you are aware a child may be at risk of harm or if you have noticed an accident or incident involving a child or children. Send the completed form to the focal point of the Network for Children's Rights as soon as possible:

The form should be filled out and signed only by you and all communication must be made in confidentiality.

### 1. Contact Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Profession: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of work: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of relationship with the child: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information (Phone/email): \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Information Regarding the Child

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents/ Guardians: \_\_\_\_\_

The child has received any type of therapy or medication; (yes/no) \_\_\_\_\_

If yes the therapy/medication was administered by: \_\_\_\_\_

Did the child need hospitalization? (yes/no) \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, include details: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Details about your concern or the incident: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Fill out the date, time and location of the incident below: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of alleged perpetrator (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Please report in detail what happened, including what the child / children, or any other person has told you, and your own response. Please specify if any other children / persons were involved in the incident and if any other children were at risk of harm. Please indicate what you did and if you were present at the incident or if it was revealed to you by someone else. If the incident was reported by someone else, please indicate who they are and their relationship with the child.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To be completed by the Safeguarding Children focal point

The incident/accident was investigated: Yes/No

A written investigation report is required: Yes/No

If any additional discussions / interviews have taken place to determine the cause of the incident or accident, please attach the relevant witness reports

or statements in a separate document.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_



# Useful Questions...

- **To whom** do we direct the report?
- Do we preserve the **right of information** regarding our report?
- Who else has a **right to report**?
- What do we need to do when **a child confides in us regarding a situation** worthy of reporting?
- Who decides **the importance of the content** of the report made by the child or our working colleague?



Thank you very much!