

Living Positive Victoria Child Safety Code of Conduct for Service Users

Policy number	68	Version	1
		Approved by board on	15 April 2017
Responsible person	CEO	Review date	April 2019

Living Positive Victoria is committed to protecting the safety and wellbeing of all children using its services, including your children. Living Positive Victoria has zero tolerance for child abuse and child sexual abuse.

To keep children safe we expect all people using Living Positive Victoria's services their invitees or guests to follow this Code of Conduct.

When I attend living Positive Victoria services or events at which children are present I will:

1. Obey the law and this Code of Conduct at all times;
2. Treat children and young people with respect;
3. Act as a positive role model in the company of children and young people;
4. Respect the privacy of children, their families and carers.
5. Respect all children and young people whatever their HIV status, race, ethnicity, sexuality, religion, age, disability, aboriginality, beliefs or opinions, gender identity, or background;
6. Report any disclosure of sexual abuse to the police and a Living Positive Victoria Child Safety Officer. All adults who have reasonable grounds to suspect a sexual offence has occurred against a child must report it to the police. Not to do so is a criminal offence.

When I attend living Positive Victoria services or events at which children are present I will NOT:

1. Shame, humiliate, oppress, belittle or degrade children or young people;
2. Physically, emotionally or sexually harm children or young people;
3. Arrange contact, including online contact, with children or young people outside Living Positive Victoria's programs and activities;

4. Harass, discriminate against or vilify children, their families, Living Positive Victoria staff members, volunteers and service users on the basis of HIV status, race, ethnicity, sexuality, religion, age, disability, aboriginality, beliefs or opinions, gender identity, or background
5. Hold open discussions of a mature or adult nature around children;
6. Use inappropriate language around children;
7. Disclose the HIV status of anyone using Living Positive Victoria's services;
8. Ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse;

With the exception of my own children I will NOT:

1. Initiate physical contact with a child or young person, or do things of a personal nature for them;
2. Photograph or video a child or young person without the consent of the child and his/her parents or guardians;
3. Be alone with a child or young person;
4. Develop a 'special' relationship with a specific child; or
5. Show favouritism to a child through the provision of gifts or special attention;

Exclusion from Children's and Family Services:

Living Positive Victoria reserves the right to exclude people from participating in our children's or family services if we have reasonable grounds to believe that they pose a risk to the safety of the children using our services.

If you have concerns about a child's safety:

If you have reasonable grounds to believe that a child has been subjected to harm at a Living Positive Victoria event or service or that this Code of Conduct has been breached by a service user, staff member or volunteer you can make a report to a Living Positive Victoria Child Safety Officer. The Child Safety Officers will act upon your concerns and keep you informed throughout the process. They will notify the relevant authorities such as the police or Child Protection where appropriate or necessary. To make a report either phone 03 9863 8733 and ask to speak to a Child Safety Officer or email childsafety@livingpositivevictoria.org.au. Your concerns will be dealt with respectfully and your confidentiality will be respected.

If you believe a child is in immediate risk of abuse phone police on 000.

If you have reasonable grounds to believe that a sexual offence has occurred you are required by law to report it to police.

Consequences of Non-Compliance

Not complying with this Code may have serious consequences. Living Positive Victoria will endeavour to resolve any matter involving this Code by facilitating discussion between the parties. If the non-compliance is of serious nature or if, in the opinion of Living Positive Victoria, there is a risk of future non-compliance, Living Positive Victoria may take any action it considers appropriate in the circumstances. This may include exclusion from Living Positive Victoria services and a report to the police, Child Protection or Child FIRST.

If there are reasonable grounds to believe that a sexual offence has occurred the police will be notified.

This Code may change at any time without prior notice. When any changes are made an updated version of the Code will be posted to Living Positive Victoria’s website.

I agree to adhere to this Code of Conduct:

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Authorisation



Brent Allen
Chief Executive Officer