

ATTENTION PARENTS!

There are no national standards for youth serving organisations in the Cayman Islands.



starts here

Here are six questions to ask when choosing an activity or summer camp for your child:

1

What is your organization's hiring practice?

Proactive or reactive - what kind of organization is this? Key things to look for are: background checks or criminal history records (police clearance records are "not" sufficient), interview questions that present potential hires with scenarios that require them to "think on their feet", and reference checks and calls to previous employers where the referees are made aware that this new recruit will be working with children.

2

Does your organization recruit volunteers? What does that recruitment process entail?

The same type of checks should exist for volunteers as they do for staff. While volunteers are not salaried, they will still have access to the children in their care.

It is important to remember that teenagers also need to be scrutinized as they too can perpetrate sexual abuse on younger, less powerful children.

3

What will be the ratio of adults per child/group for the duration of this camp session/programme?

The risk for child sexual abuse multiplies exponentially in organizations that allow or fail to expressly prohibit isolated, one-on-one interactions between adults and children. Interactions should be observable and interruptible, the ratio should require at least two adults present at all times, there should be plans for special circumstances and emergency situations, and a code of conduct for all staff and volunteers.

4

What sort of training and qualifications are required of staff and volunteers prior to the start of the camp/programme?

Training raises awareness, helps to develop capacity, and in the case of child sexual abuse also deters potential perpetrators from joining an organization. Darkness to Light's "Stewards of Children: 5 Steps to Protecting our Children" is a great, concise training programme that parents should inquire about specifically as a starting point.

5

Will all the adults who will have access to my child be vetted?

While camp counselors and leaders may be the ones who interact the most with the children, parents should also ask about other adults such as administrators, janitorial staff, and speakers/lecturers who may have access to the children.

6

What is the policy and the process for reporting suspicion of child abuse?

While recent changes in the law have designated key persons "mandated reporters", it is important to ensure that the organization which you have chosen not only understands this, but has also clearly disseminated this responsibility to its staff. At a minimum policies and procedures should be in place, but also inquire about ongoing staff training and communication around this specifically.



CaymanIslandsRedCross

in partnership with



Interested in learning more about child sexual abuse in the Cayman Islands and how to prevent it?
Help us make Cayman safer for all youth- ask your youth service provider about the Seal of Protection.
For more information on the Seal of Protection, or to learn more about child sexual abuse prevention,
CONTACT: DEPUTY@REDCROSS.ORG.KY

