TBR COMMITMENT

TBR institutions are committed to promoting a safe environment for children who participate in on-campus programs and activities, as well as children who take part in off-campus programs and activities sponsored by a college.

TBR and institutional policy are designed to foster a culture committed to preventing, recognizing, reporting, and addressing child abuse and child sexual abuse.
Training Goals

• Reporting—when and how to report
• Responsibilities—your responsibilities as a “Covered Adult”
• Prevention—actions prohibited by policy
• Recognition—understand and recognize potential child abuse
Reporting Obligations

Tennessee law requires reporting by ANY PERSON who:

(a) knows of PHYSICAL or MENTAL HARM to a child if
   (i) the nature of the harm reasonably indicates it was caused by brutality, abuse, or neglect, or
   (ii) on the basis of available information, the harm reasonably appears to have been cause by brutality, abuse or neglect.

(b) knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been SEXUALLY ABUSED, regardless of whether the child has sustained an apparent injury as a result of the abuse.

These laws apply to ALL adults, even if the child abuse or child sexual abuse did not occur in connection with a Covered Program.
External Reporting

- Call 911 for a life-threatening emergency
- Reports of child abuse or child sexual abuse must be made immediately to the Tennessee Department of Children’s Services at the Central Intake Child Abuse Hotline:
  - 1-877-542-2873
  - or
  - 1-877-237-0004
Internal Reporting Requirements

- Must make a report both to DCS and INTERNALLY
- Internal reporting--after reporting to the Department of Children’s Services, report to
  - The Programs for Minors Coordinator (PMC) or Program Director
  - Employees should also report to their supervisor
- The PMC/PD/supervisors must
  - Ensure that a report has been made to DCS
  - Inform the President
- The PMC/PD/Supervisor/President must report to person responsible for Clery Act compliance.
“Covered Adults” are individuals eighteen (18) years of age and older who are expected to have direct contact with a minor in a Covered Program by reason of their employment, contractual, or volunteer status with the institution. Covered Adults can be employees, volunteers, or contractors and can include students.
Covered Adult Obligations

• Make reasonable efforts to ensure the safety of minors participating in Covered Programs. They should remove minors from dangerous or potentially hazardous situations.

• Pay attention to safety of minors in Covered Programs.

• Notify Programs for Minors Coordinator or Program Director if other Covered Adults in the program engage in behavior on the following slides.
Covered Adults Must NOT

• Be alone with a minor
• Be alone in a vehicle with a minor (even with parental consent)
• Have physical contact or communicate (either in person or electronically) with minors, except as appropriate to the nature of the program
• Use college facilities or resources to interact with minors outside of the Program
• Meet a minor off-site or after hours, even if another Covered Adult is present
• Permit minors in dangerous places (e.g., welding labs)
Covered Adults Must NOT

• Strike, slap, administer corporal punishment, or touch minor inappropriately
• Humiliate, threaten, ridicule, or degrade a minor
• Use language encouraging a minor to keep a secret (“This is just between us”)
• Wear inappropriate clothing while interacting with minors
• Sleep in the same room or enclosed space (i.e., a tent) as a minor
• Dress or undress in the presence of a minor
• Shower or bathe in the presence of a minor
• Invade privacy (e.g., intruding on showers or changing activity)
• These prohibitions do not apply to relatives
Covered Adults Must NOT

- Possess or use alcohol, illegal drugs or be under the influence during a Covered Program
- Provide alcohol, tobacco, drugs, prescription drugs, or medication to a minor
- View pornography during the Program, make pornography available to a minor, or assist a minor in gaining access
- Take a photo or video of a minor or post information about a minor on the internet without written permission of parent or guardian.
- Give a personal gift to a minor
Types of Child Abuse

- **Physical abuse**: Non-accidental trauma or physical injury of a child, or failure to protect a child from harm.
- **Neglect**: Failure to provide for a child's physical survival needs to the extent that there is harm, or risk of harm, to the child's health or safety.
- **Sexual abuse**: When a child is involved in intentional sexual acts that produce sexual arousal and/or gratification for the perpetrator or sexual behaviors/situations in which there is a sexual component.
- **Psychological harm**: A repeated pattern of caregiver behavior or extreme incident(s) that convey to children they are worthless, flawed, unloved, unwanted, endangered. May include both abusive acts against a child and failure to act.

Tenn. Dept of Children’s Services, https://www.tn.gov/dcs/program-areas/child-safety/reporting/faqs.html
Possible Indicators of Abuse/Neglect

• The child has repeated injuries that are not properly treated or adequately explained.
• The child begins acting in unusual ways ranging from disruptive and aggressive to passive and withdrawn.
• The child acts as a parent toward his or her brothers and sisters or even toward their own parents.
• The child may have disturbed sleep (nightmares, bed wetting, fear of sleeping alone, and needing nightlight).
Possible Indicators of Abuse/Neglect

• The child loses his/her appetite, overeats or may report being hungry.
• There is a sudden drop in school grades or participation in activities.
• The child may act in ways that are developmentally inappropriate, such as sexual behavior that is not normal for his/her age group.
• The child may report abusive or neglectful acts.
• *Note:* The above signs can indicate something is wrong but do not necessarily indicate abuse or neglect.

Tenn. Dept of Children’s Services, https://www.tn.gov/dcs/program-areas/child-safety/reporting/faqs.html
Questions?

• Consult institutional Programs For Minors on Campus Policy for additional information.

• The institution’s Programs for Minors Coordinator is available to answer additional questions.