



Child Protection Policy

Policy Objective

To promote the safety and wellbeing of children in contact with The Levin Performing Arts Society (Incorporated).

Policy Principles

The following principles underpin the intent and implementation of the Child protection Policy:

- LPAS members are to ensure the wellbeing of children.
- The Society recognises the important role and responsibility Society Committee members may have in the accurate detection of suspected child abuse and/or neglect, and the early recognition of children at risk or abuse.
- Society members ensure the Society is not brought into disrepute for child abuse conducted by individual(s).

Definitions

Child Abuse : the harming (whether physically, emotionally, or sexually), ill-treatment, abuse, neglect or deprivation of any child or young person.

Physical indicators include, but not limited to the following:

- Frequent psychosomatic complaints (eg headaches, nausea, abdominal pains)
- Prolonged vomiting or diarrhoea
- Has deprived physical living conditions compared with other children in the family
- Inappropriate dress for the weather
- Extremely dirty or unbathed
- Inadequately supervised or left alone for unacceptable periods of time
- Malnourished
- Unexplained bruises, welts, cuts, abrasions
- Unexplained burns
- Unexplained fractures or disclosures
- Torn, stained or bloody underclothing

Child : means a person under the age of 14 years

Young Person : means a person of or over the age of 14 years but under 17 years, but does not include any person who is or has been married or in a civil union.

Policy Statement

Suspected Child Abuse – Society Committee Members must be alert to the signs and symptoms of neglect or abuse, and are to take appropriate action to protect the well being and safety of children and young people



associated in any shape or form with the Society.

Responding to suspected abuse or neglect – Society members are expected to report all cases of child abuse or neglect, and in the case of emergency the Police should be conducted in the first instance.

Confidentiality – information gathered will be kept in accordance with the Privacy Act 1993. The Society Executive will hold this information securely and this will only be disclosed to the New Zealand Police and/or Child, Youth and Family, if requested.

Recording Abuse – If child abuse is suspected, Society Members are expected to adhere to the following:

- No information given out to public enquiries
- Inform a member of the Society Executive and discuss options of security
- Complete an incident report

Persons under Suspicion – person(s) under suspicion of child abuse while acting in any capacity for the Society, or outside of the Society, may be stood down from Society activity prior to any investigation. Appropriate action including the cessation of Society membership and association with any activity relating to the Society will be considered on a case-by-case basis once the outcome of any investigation is known.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of the Levin Performing Arts Society (Inc) held on 15 March 2016, and reconfirmed on 16 April 2023.