



**Kannur Association for Integrated Rural Organization
and Support**

KAIROS

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY (CPP)

Approved By : Director of KAIROS

Child Protection Policy (CPP)

Objective:

Child Protection Policy was introduced to include guidelines for preventing child abuse, ensuring access to quality education and healthcare, addressing child labour and exploitation, providing legal safeguards for victims, and promoting awareness about child rights. This policy has been adopted by KAIROS, and requires all representatives of the organisation to conduct themselves appropriately with the children who participate or associate with related programs and take reasonable measures to ensure the safety of such children. The goal is to ensure they can grow, learn and flourish without fear of abuse or neglect. Child abuse is never acceptable, and we at KAIROS hold a zero tolerance stand against child abuse.

Legal Framework

The Constitution of India, under Article 15(3) and Article 39(e) and (f), guarantees special protection and care for children. Additionally, legislations like the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, and the Right to Education Act, 2009, collectively reinforce the legal safeguards for children.

Definition of the term Child

“Child” means a person below the age of eighteen years and the term “Children” shall be construed accordingly.

What Constitutes Child Abuse

1. Physical Abuse

This involves causing physical harm to a child. It includes:

- Hitting, shaking, or slapping
- Burning or scalding
- Biting, bruising, or breaking bones
- Using objects to inflict injury

2. Emotional or Psychological Abuse

This type of abuse damages a child’s self-esteem and emotional well-being. It can include:

- Verbal abuse, such as yelling, threats, or constant criticism
- Belittling or humiliating a child
- Rejection or neglect of emotional needs
- Isolating a child from friends or activities

3. Sexual Abuse

This involves engaging a child in sexual activities or exploiting them sexually. It includes:

- Inappropriate touching or fondling
- Sexual assault or rape

- Exploitation through pornography
- Encouraging or coercing a child to engage in sexual behaviour

4. Neglect

Neglect occurs when a caregiver fails to meet a child's basic needs. It includes:

- Physical neglect: Not providing adequate food, shelter, or clothing
- Medical neglect: Failing to provide necessary medical care or attention
- Educational neglect: Not ensuring the child attends school or receives proper education
- Emotional neglect: Failing to provide emotional support or affection

5. Abandonment

Abandonment occurs when a child is left alone without proper care or supervision. It includes:

- Leaving a child in a dangerous situation without adequate care
- Failing to provide necessary supervision or guidance

Reporting and Intervention

If you suspect that a child is being abused, it's crucial to report it to the appropriate authorities, such as child protective services, law enforcement, or a trusted professional. Early intervention can help protect the child and provide them with the support and resources they need.

1. Recognize the Signs of Abuse

Before reporting, it's crucial to recognize the signs of abuse. These may include physical injuries, behavioural changes, emotional distress, or neglect indicators.

2. Document the Concerns

If you suspect abuse, document your observations and any relevant details. This includes:

- Descriptions of injuries or signs of neglect
- Statements made by the child or others involved
- Observations of the child's behaviour or changes in their usual routine

3. Report the Abuse

Depending on the location and the situation, there are various ways to report child abuse:

- We at **KAIROS** have a special cell for reporting such abuses. It's a 4-team member (2 women & 2 male employees which includes one of the trustees of the board) and an email id for raising the grievances at kairoshelpcpp@gmail.com
- **Police:** For immediate or severe cases, contact the police or emergency services.
- **Child Protective Services (CPS):** In many places, CPS is responsible for investigating reports of child abuse and neglect. They can be reached through local government offices or their dedicated hotlines. In Kannur district the contact number is
- 0490-2326199

4. Follow Up

After reporting, ensure you follow up if necessary. This might involve:

- Contacting the reporting agency to check on the status of the investigation.
- Cooperating with authorities during their investigation.
- Seeking legal advice if the situation is complex or if you feel the response has been inadequate.

5. Support the Child

While the investigation is ongoing, it's essential to ensure that the child is safe and receives appropriate care. This may include:

- Providing emotional support and reassurance.
- Ensuring the child is in a safe environment away from the abuser.
- Seeking counselling or psychological support for the child, if needed.

6. Legal Redressal

If abuse is confirmed, legal proceedings may follow. The legal system might involve:

- **Criminal Charges:** The abuser may face criminal charges and court proceedings.
- **Civil Actions:** The child or their guardians might pursue civil actions for damages or protection orders.
- **Child Custody Issues:** In cases involving family members, custody arrangements may be reviewed to ensure the child's safety.

7. Community and Support Services

- **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):** Many NGOs and community organizations provide additional support and resources for abused children and their families.
- **Counselling and Therapy:** Professional counselling services can help the child and their family cope with the emotional impact of abuse.

8. Confidentiality and Sensitivity

Handle all information related to the case with confidentiality and sensitivity to protect the child's privacy and well-being.

Conclusion

Reporting and addressing child abuse requires careful consideration and prompt action to protect the child. Ensuring that the proper authorities are notified and that the child receives the necessary support is crucial for their safety and recovery. Effective intervention can make a significant difference in a child's life, offering them the protection and care they need to heal and thrive.