



Key Points from University's Minors Policy: What to Do & Not to Do When You're Around Children

This list is a simplified list of the conduct to keep in mind when interacting with children who are participating in a University of Dayton program that involves minors.

The Rule of 2

- Remember the rule of 2: At least two adults should be present when interacting with a minor.

Conduct

- Be polite and positive.
- Do not inappropriately touch a child. Do not apply sunscreen, allow child to sit on lap, caress hair, help dress, etc.
- Do not show sexually-oriented or morally-inappropriate materials in any form to a child.
- Do not take part in conversations of a sexual nature.
- Avoid making comments or compliments relating to a child's physique, build or body development.
- Do not offer drugs, cigarettes or alcohol to a minor.
- Do not use or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs during a minors program or activity.
- Do not have knives, fireworks, firearms, weapons, etc. around a minor.
- Do not meet alone outside of the UD event or program unless the parent or guardian gives written consent.
- Do not call, email, text, befriend or follow on social media any of the children in the program. (That is, beyond the communication that's needed for the program.)
- Do not take photos of children, and do not post the photos to social media. (This does not apply if you're the official photographer for the event and photographs are permitted.)
- Do not speak to children in a way that could be construed as harsh, threatening, intimidating, shaming, derogatory, demeaning, or humiliating. Any criticism should be constructive and appropriately tailored to the situation and the child's age.
- Do not swear, curse or act rudely in front of a minor.
- *The bottom line:* At all times, use good judgment in your interactions with minors, and err on the side of caution. Consider the effect of your actions on an outside observer. If your behavior has the potential to raise red flags, avoid that conduct regardless of your intentions.

Report Child Abuse

- Watch out for any indications that a child has been abused or threatened with abuse. For example, an unexplained injury or extreme fear of going home could indicate abuse.
- Report any witnessed or threatened abuse through the means established by the program host, e.g., the school's authorities, etc. If the host site does not have a protocol in place, then report the abuse to UD's Department of Public Safety (937-229-2121) and the individual in charge of the program.*
- Also report any conduct that is out of step with UD's Minors Policy (the list of conduct above).

* If you're considered a "mandatory reporter" under Ohio law, you would also need to report the issue to Children's Services.