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Charity No: 19298 // Company Reg No: 481858 // CRA: 20075521

i4Life: Child Protection Policy Statement:
It's in Compliance with CRC, Convention on the Rights of the Child

1. **Immunisation 4 Life CHS objective is to keep safety of children paramount.**
2. **Immunisation 4 Life CHS recognizes that the welfare of the child is fundamental.**
3. **Immunisation 4 Life CHS acknowledges the inherent right of children to be protected and treated with respect, listened to and to have their views taken into consideration.**
4. **Immunisation 4 Life CHS will seek to ensure that every child the organisation and its members come into contact with, directly or indirectly, will be treated with respect and dignity and will be protected from harm, neglect or abuse.**
5. **In Irish law a “child” means a person under the age of 18 years of age, excluding a person who is or has been married.**
There are multiple definitions of a child in Zambian law and this can cause a disparity in interpretation. There is a dual legal system. In Statutory Law a child is a person aged under 18 years. In Customary Law, which stems from tradition, the age of a child may be defined differently.

There are four categories of child abuse, these are physical, emotional, sexual and neglect.

For definition see Appendix 2:

Reporting Procedure of Child Abuse;

Immunisation 4 Life CHS [i4Life] will respond effectively and ensure that any allegations or suspicions of child abuse are reported within the organisation and to the relevant local civil authorities.

Any member of i4Life CHS to whom a concern or suspicion of abuse is reported;

1. Must report their concerns immediately to the designated liaison person or the deputy.
The name of the designated liaison person is: **Maura Moran**
The names of the deputies are: **Carmel Whiriskey & Dr Kevin Connolly & Mary Holian & Dr. Mary Fitzgerald.** In Zambia **Sr Barbara Banda, Sr Judith Mulawo.**
(Investigation of the allegation is the duty of the statutory authorities)
2. i4Life CHS liaises with the Neri Clinic and other relevant clinics/groups with regard to their reporting procedure. i4Life will agree and share information flow in regards

to same. i4Life reserves the right to activate i4Life CHS's reporting procedure should that be in the best interests of the child.

3. Should a child disclose to any i4Life CHS member that he/she is being abused, the person will listen carefully to the child and accept what he/she is saying. A written record will be kept. The child's words need to be recorded verbatim. The child will be reassured that he/she has a right to tell their story.
4. A Translator if used needs to be aware of i4Life CHS and local child protection policy, and will report the exact words used by the child.
5. Any disclosures must be reported without undue delay.
6. i4Life CHS will inform parents / guardian that a report has been made to the Zambian Authorities, unless doing so will put the child at immediate risk.
 - The following are examples of events that are reasonable grounds for concern:
 - a. Admission or indication by someone of an alleged abuse.
 - b. A specific indication from a child that he/she was abused.
 - c. Account from a person who saw the child being abused.
 - d. Evidence (e.g. injury or behaviour) that is consistent with abuse and unlikely to have being caused in any other way.
7. A member of i4Life CHS who becomes aware of possible child abuse should not dismiss concerns or promise to keep secrets, and should not investigate or ask the child to repeat the story. The member's role is to listen.

If the child asks you to keep the disclosure to yourself you need to sensitively explain that it is necessary to share this information with your designated liaison person at the earliest opportunity. Report and record in writing in a factual manner what the child has said. Inform i4Life CHS designated liaison person immediately, and follow local procedures.

8. Any retrospective disclosures of abuse by adults are reported in the same manner, as such a disclosure may reveal that the alleged perpetrator is currently a risk to a child.

Note: Children in Zambia are vulnerable to many different forms of child abuse, (Physical, Sexual, Exploitation of their innocence and labour, Neglect). Being driven on to the streets to find a livelihood. The environment of poverty may provoke a fertile breeding ground for many of these forms of abuse. The situation is aggravated by early AIDS related deaths of young parents resulting in an increase in orphans.



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Code of Behaviour for i4Life CHS

i4Life CHS has a commitment to treat all children equally regardless of the child's gender, race, culture or ability. All volunteers with i4Life CHS in Ireland are Garda Vetted and go through an appropriate recruitment and selection process.

01: Training:

i4Life CHS volunteers shall be appropriately educated prior to their departure regarding the code of behaviour, and the culture of the Zambian people. In Zambia all volunteers living in Zambia are educated regarding the Child Protection Policy and are aware of procedure in the event of a disclosure of child abuse.

02: Responsibility:

i4Life CHS volunteers;

1. Have responsibility for themselves and the organisation.
2. Will always work in threes when doing "field-work."
3. Shall develop an appropriate relationship with the local community.
4. Shall not develop favouritism or become overly involved with any child.

Should a volunteer with i4Life CHS develop personal relationships with a child/children that is not within their role with i4Life CHS, this must be discussed with the designated person or deputy. Consideration may have to be given to the appropriateness of such relationships. i4Life CHS will convene a meeting of appropriate persons to work out how i4Life CHS might best respond in relation to the child.

03: Confidentiality:

It is essential that all information between i4Life CHS and the Neri Clinic is treated with the utmost confidentiality in order to safe guard the privacy of the child and the families concerned and to avoid prejudicing any subsequent legal proceedings.

04: Respect:

i4Life CHS volunteers respect the local and co-worker volunteers. They respect volunteers and themselves. No alcohol or recreational drugs are allowed by any volunteer. i4Life CHS does not encourage volunteers to give or accept gifts. Bullying in any form (verbal, psychological, physical) will not be tolerated. Cameras in any form should be used sensitively as per Dochas policy. Members of i4Life CHS must ensure that there is an appropriate and professional balance between meeting the needs of the child and the discharging of professional responsibilities to protect vulnerable children. Clothing worn by the volunteers must be appropriate for the clinic.