



**THE JARED BOX PROJECT'S
POLICY ON CHILD SAFEGUARDING**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

The Jared Box Project (“TJBP”) believes that every child has a right to live free from abuse and exploitation. We uphold the rights of children as defined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child¹ and believe that all children have a right to protection:

‘...from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s), or any other person who has the care of the child.’

This is regardless of one’s nationality, migration, status, disability status, culture, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious or political beliefs, socio-economic status, family background, criminal record, physical or mental health, or any other differentiating factor.

The purpose of TJBP’S Child Safeguarding Policy is to prevent any form of violence or harm to children arising from the activities of TJBP and to ensure that TJBP takes appropriate action when a child safeguarding concern is brought to its attention.

1.2 Scope

TJBP’s Child Safeguarding Policy is an organization-wide policy and statement of intent. This policy applies to all TJBP personnel including staff, interns, consultants, and volunteers at any level and in any location.

This policy also considers that TJBP does not hold sole responsibility for protecting these members of society and identifies that their protection is also incumbent upon other stakeholders such as government agencies, family groups and non-governmental organizations.

1.3 Implementation

There is no formal process for becoming a TJBP volunteer box maker, sponsor, or donor. There likewise is no formal list of those involved. Given the nature of TJBP’s work, and the various organizations nationwide that create Jared Boxes, TJBP is unable to provide each box maker, sponsor, or donor a copy of TJBP’s policies and procedures. As such, to effectuate the overall intent and purpose of this policy, the policies and procedures of TJBP’s Child Safeguarding Policy is available on TJBP’s official website. A written copy is available upon request.

2. DEFINITIONS AND TERMS

¹ UNRC 1989

Child means every human being under the age of 18

Child safeguarding are the actions taken by TJPB to prevent harm and promote the welfare of the children and young people we work with and for. Of particular importance is the need to create safe and supportive spaces for TJPB volunteers to participate in our work to reduce risks and for any (safety and welfare) concerns to be raised and responded to. Safeguarding is carried out by developing and implementing a set of policies, procedures, and practices to ensure all organizational functions prioritize each child's safety.

Child abuse constitutes anything which individuals, institutions or processes do or fail to do which directly or indirectly harm children or damages their prospect of safe and healthy development into adulthood. The main categories of Child Abuse are Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Exploitation, Neglect/Negligent Treatment, and Sexual Exploitation & Abuse.

Child sexual abuse is the involvement of a child in sexual activity with an adult or another child who by age or development is in a relationship of responsibility, trust or power, the activity being intended to gratify or satisfy the needs of the other person. This may include but is not limited to:

- the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity;
- the exploitative use of child in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices; and
- the exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.

Emotional abuse involves doing harm to a child's emotional, intellectual, mental, or psychological development. This may occur as an isolated event or on an ongoing basis. Emotional abuse includes but is not limited to any humiliating or degrading treatment (e.g. bad name calling, threats, yelling/screaming/cursing, teasing, constant criticism, belittling, persistent shaming, etc.); failure to meet a child's emotional needs; rejecting, ignoring, terrorizing, isolating, or confining a child; and attacking or minimizing a child's cultural identity.

Physical abuse is the non-accidental use of physical force that deliberately or inadvertently causes a risk of/ or actual injury to a child. This may include hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing non-accidental physical harm to a child. Physical harm can also be caused when a caregiver fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness or temporary, permanent injury or disability of a child.

Neglect includes, but is not limited to failing to provide for the development of the child in all spheres: health, education, emotional development, nutrition, shelter, and safe living conditions, in the context of resources reasonably available to the family or

caretakers and causes or has a high probability of causing harm to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. This includes the failure to properly supervise and protect children from harm as much as is feasible.

Exploitation is the actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, power differential, or trust for the benefit of the individual leveraging their position, power, privilege, or wealth (through enticement, manipulation, coercion, or trickery) to engage a child in labor, domestic servitude, forced criminality, or any activity in which a child's dignity is compromised in order for an organization to gain financially or in reputation. Typically, the person(s) exploiting a child does so to profit monetarily, socially, or politically. It can happen to one or a group of children, in the community of origin, outside of the community, or internationally. The exploitation of a child may include, but is not limited to:

- domestic servitude (e.g. cleaning, childcare, cooking, etc.);
- taking photos of children in distress to gain donations;
- forced labor; and
- forced criminal activity;

Representatives include employees, volunteers, interns, consultants, board members, partners, and others who work with children on TJPB's behalf or who have access to sensitive information about recipients of Jared Boxes.

Images includes photographs and videos captured by any device.

3. KEY POLICY COMPONENTS

3.1 TJPB is Committed to Children

TJPB is committed to conducting its programs and operations in a manner that is safe for the children it serves and to helping protect the children with whom TJPB is in contact.

Representatives are explicitly prohibited from engaging in any activity that may result in any kind of Child Abuse.

Representatives are expected to create and proactively maintain an environment that aims to prevent and deter any actions and omissions, whether deliberate or inadvertent, that place children at risk of any kind of Child Abuse. TJPB has adopted Procedures, described below, to promote training and prevention, reporting, and responding.

3.2 TJPB Complies with all Applicable Laws and Regulations

It is TJPB's policy to ensure compliance with all applicable child welfare and protection laws. Where the guidance in this policy conflicts with any applicable laws or regulation, the higher standard must be observed at all times.

3.3 TJPB Prohibits Sexual Activity with Children

Any individual under the age of 18 is a child and is "underage," regardless of the legal age of consent of the jurisdiction in which s/he lives and/or in which the offense occurs.

3.4 TJPB's Executive Director is Committed

TJPB's Executive Director is committed to taking all appropriate corrective actions. Disciplinary, legal or other applicable actions in response to any violation of the Child Safeguarding Policy will be taken against any individual who has committed a Child Safeguarding violation and/or anyone who knew of such a violation and failed to act or report.

3.5 Policy on Confidentiality in Child Safeguarding Matters

All information relating to child safeguarding concerns will be treated as confidential. No retaliation or punitive action will be taken against anyone who, in good faith, raises a child safeguarding concern.

4. KEY CHILD SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES

4.1 General

Representatives of TJPB must never:

- act in a way that may be abusive or place children at risk of abuse;
- hit, physically assault, or physically abuse children or threaten to do so;
- engage in behaviors that are physically inappropriate or sexually provocative;
- engage in sexual activity or have a sexual relationship with anyone under the age of 18 years irrespective of the age of majority/consent or local custom;
- stay alone overnight with one or more children benefiting from TJPB who is not part of their family, whether in their house or elsewhere;
- sleep in the same bed as a child engaged in TJPB activity or sleep in the same room as the child, who is not a part of their family;
- exchange personal contact information or ask for child's personal contact information;

- develop relationships with children which could in any way be deemed exploitative or abusive;
- use language, make suggestions, or offer advice to children which is inappropriate, offensive, or abusive;
- do things for participating children of a personal nature that they can do themselves (e.g. toileting, dressing, feeding, washing, etc.);
- condone or participate in behavior of children which is unsafe or illegal;
- act in ways that shame; humiliate; belittle; or degrade children or otherwise perpetrate any form of emotional abuse;
- discriminate against, show unfair preferential or differential treatment towards certain children engaged in TJPB activities to the exclusion of others;
- ask to meet children away from other adults or spend excessive time alone with children engaged in TJPB activities away from others in a manner which could be interpreted as inappropriate; and/or
- expose children to inappropriate images, films, music, and websites including mature content, indecent images (pornography), and violence.

THIS IS NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE OR EXCLUSIVE LIST

4.2 Social Media and Photography Guidelines

Governing TJPB's use of visual images is an overriding principle to maintain respect and dignity in our portrayal of children, youth, volunteers, and personnel. Essential to this commitment is to ensure that all necessary steps are taken at TJPB events and activities to prevent inappropriate images being taken or innocent images being adapted for inappropriate use.

At many TJPB events and activities, volunteers and personnel may wish to take photographs and/or videos. Participants and personnel should seek oral consent prior to taking a photograph or video during a TJPB event or activity. Where the photograph or video will involve children and youth, oral consent should be obtained from both the child and their parent *before* taking the photograph or video.

If a child or person appears to not want to have their image taken – either by stating so verbally or through body language – the photograph and/or video must not be taken. If it has already been taken, the image must be deleted.

TJPB may include images of children, youth, volunteers, and personnel in publications and on its website or social media accounts. Where images involve children and youth, TJPB will obtain consent from the minor's parent or guardian. Children and youth will never be named when their images are being used by TJPB in publications and on its

website or social media accounts. Parents or legal guardians who wish to take photographs and/or videos during TJPB events and activities are reminded not to photograph and/or video other children and youth that are not their own, unless proper consent is obtained.

TJPB will take all steps to ensure these images are used solely for the purposes they are intended. If you become aware that these images are being used inappropriately, you should inform TJPB immediately as outlined below.

5. REPORTING AND RESPONDING

5.1 Reporting Child Safeguarding Incidents

TJPB is committed to responding to all reports or indications, including rumors, that suggest a child may be harmed or at risk of harm. The safety of the child(ren) must be of paramount concern at all times.

If a child is in danger or in harm's way, call 911 or the local authorities immediately. All other concerns **must** be reported within 24 hours through the appropriate channel within 24 hours.

"Mandated Reporters" must report child welfare concerns to the appropriate local authority (each state has its own reporting hotline).

Report of child safeguarding risk and/or violations to the Executive Director at reportconcern@thejaredbox.org or via telephone 814-883-8615, or via mail at 129 Fenwick Drive, Port Matilda, PA 16870.

No person who makes a report in good faith will be subject to retaliation. A person may report on an anonymous basis although that may impede the Executive Director's ability to thoroughly investigate the allegations.

5.2 Responding to Child Safeguarding Incidents

TJPB will immediately report all child safeguarding reports to the applicable authority of the state in which the incident occurred.

6. REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

TJPB will ensure that implementation of this Child Safeguarding Policy is subject to regular monitoring and will review the policy on an ongoing basis (although changes may be made prior to formal review, should legal, policy, or practice changes suggest this is necessary).