

AGAPE DEVELOPMENT MINISTRIES

Children's Programs Volunteer Agreement



All members of staff and volunteers working with children and young people must recognize they are vulnerable to accusations of abuse. It is necessary for staff and volunteers to be mindful of the need to minimize the opportunities for such allegations.

Four categories of abuse:

- *Neglect*: persistent or severe neglect, or the failure to protect a child from exposure to any kind of danger, or extreme failure to carry out important aspects of care, resulting in the significant impairment of the child's health or development.
- *Physical injury*: actual or likely physical injury to a child, or failure to prevent physical injury (or suffering) to a child.
- *Sexual abuse*: actual or likely sexual exploitation of a child or adolescent.
- *Emotional abuse*: actual or likely severe adverse effect on the emotional and behavioral development of a child caused by persistent or severe emotional ill-treatment or rejection.

I, _____, agree to abide by the following policies and procedures in order to ensure the safety of the children entrusted to Agape Development Ministries' care, and to minimize any opportunities for the occurrence of any kinds of abuse to transpire:

- I will **not** take a child or children into a private place out of **view of other adults**.
- I will **not** put myself in a position as the only adult supervising any activity; I will remain mindful to **remain with at least one other chaperone** when supervising children.
- I will refrain from touching children in any inappropriate or easily misconstrued ways. I recognize that **it is my responsibility to maintain an appropriate relationship**, even if a child behaves inappropriately.
- I will **never** over-criticize children or young people or use language that may cause them to lose self-esteem or confidence.
- I recognize that it is not possible to guarantee confidentiality in all conversations with children and young people. Therefore, I will not make such a promise.
- I will report any incidence of suspected abuse to Agape Development Ministries' staff.

Signature: _____

Date: _____