



Medieval Combat Society

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CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1) Purpose and scope of the Child Safeguarding Policy

- a) The Society must ensure that all members of The Society will be sensitive to the possibility of child abuse and neglect within the environment and that clear guidance is provided for the protection and care of both junior members of The Society and other children with whom The Society may come into contact.
- b) It is therefore desirable to hold a set of rules and guidelines which are specific to this need in addition to The Societies general safety rules.
- c) The Child Safeguarding Policy consists of a set of rules and guidelines which The Society will follow with regard to the safeguarding of children.

2) Definitions

- a) For the purposes of these guidelines the word “parents” will be taken to mean a child’s parent(s), legal guardian(s) or other persons with parental responsibility.
- b) For the purposes of these guidelines a child is defined as any person under the age of 16, not necessarily a member of The Society.

3) Child Protection Guidelines

- a) Junior members of The Society are the responsibility of their parents at all times.
- b) Junior members of The Society must be under direct adult supervision while engaged in any Society activities.
- c) All members of The Society will be vigilant about their own actions towards children and ensure that those actions cannot be misinterpreted.
- d) Society members will not accept the duty of care of any child unless the child’s parents have consented to this and requested them to do so. In addition, the member must be in full agreement that they are prepared to do so.
- e) Children, other than a member’s own, will not be taken into a private situation by any member without prior consent of that child’s parents. Under all other circumstances children in the company of members must remain in public view at all times.
- f) Society members will behave in an appropriate manner towards, and when in the presence of, all children. (Particular care should be taken over the use of touch and the use of appropriate, non-profane language when children are present).
- g) It is considered desirable, but not mandatory, that any member interacting directly with children (for example during have-a-go archery instruction) hold a recent enhanced Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) certificate.
- h) All members with any concern over any incidents or action taken by or witnessed by them, or in event that a child makes a disclosure to them will report the event as soon as possible to an Officer of the Society who will in turn inform the rest of the committee.

- i) In the event of an incident being reported, the committee will immediately meet to discuss the report and then take appropriate action. This may include informing the police or social services of the incident / disclosure. Individual members of the society including those making the initial report should take no further action without committee instruction.