

GUIDELINES for NYYM

in the event of an *allegation of child sexual abuse* during sessions.

Updated Guidelines, 2018

Reviewed by GSCC: _____

Date, Meeting Minute, and signature

This document is intended to provide guidelines for action in the first few hours after a report of sexual abuse has been made. It addresses allegations of sexual abuse at official functions of the New York Yearly Meeting, including but not limited to the Annual Summer Sessions, Spring and Fall Sessions, committee meetings and Planning Sessions.

The New York Yearly Meeting does not tolerate or condone any incidents of sexual abuse and holds the safety of our children as a sacred trust. Any allegation of sexual misconduct within the Yearly Meeting is taken very seriously. New York Yearly Meeting will not tolerate any retaliation against an alleged victim and his or her family regardless of the outcome of the investigation.

Definition of Child Sexual Abuse:

Child sexual abuse for the purposes of these procedures will include sexual activity explicit or implicit, sexual advances or insinuations towards children, sharing indecent material with a child, sexual activity, advances or insinuations between adults in the known presence of children. The abuser may be an adult or another child.

Child Sexual Abuse Investigation Team

New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) has a team for responding to allegations of child sexual abuse (also referred to as Abuse Investigation Team or AIT) comprised of the following members: The General Secretary, the Assistant Clerk, and two Friends with expertise in this area to be appointed each year by General Services Coordinating Committee in consultation with the Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Committee Clerk and Coordinators.

The AIT will make it a priority to ensure complete confidentiality in all aspects of this work. The General Secretary will serve as the sole media contact and will also report to the community if the AIT determines that to be necessary. In the absence of the General Secretary, the NYYM Clerk will serve in this capacity.

For Summer Sessions 2018 the AIT members are Steve Mohlke (General Secretary, Ithaca), Jeffrey Aaron (Assistant Clerk, New Brunswick), John Scardina, and Chris DeRoller

Informing the Community

When the AIT forms a clear sense that there is an urgent safety need, the community will be informed that the AIT is handling the alleged incident in an entirely confidential manner.

Procedures in the event of a sexual misconduct claim

JYM volunteers and members of the AIT will be trained to respond in the following way:

1. On hearing an allegation of child sexual abuse, the JYM volunteer or AIT member will listen fully and carefully to the complaint. They will reassure the child that they will be safe during JYM group time, and that their complaint is being taken seriously.
2. An incident report form will be filled out documenting the complaint and the victim's exact words in describing what happened as a record of the complaint.
3. An individual member of the AIT will be approached with the claim. He or she will discuss the situation with the volunteer and they will discern together if there is reasonable cause to make an immediate report to the state authorities. If they are unclear as to whether this is a reportable situation, the AIT will be convened immediately and will discuss the claim without mentioning the names of anyone involved.
4. In order to ensure confidentiality and prevent any suspicion that the written report has been tampered with or changed, the incident report form will be sealed in an envelope and signed across the closing flap by the individuals making the report to the state authorities. This envelope will be placed in the care of the General Secretary for use by the State authorities in their investigation of the claim.

If a complaint is brought to a Friend or attender who is not involved with JYM: The Friend or attender will listen fully and carefully to the complaint. They will reassure the child that they will be safe while at NYYM Sessions and that their complaint is being taken seriously. That Friend or attender should then bring the concern to one of the members of the AIT who will follow the procedure described in this document.

Care for an alleged abuser

In the event of a reported sexual abuse NYYM will seek to provide whatever support is needed to help the accused individual to remain part of the Yearly Meeting community.

In the event that a member of our community is known to be a perpetrator, we will work with that individual to determine what strictures or boundaries are necessary to protect him or her and all of the members of the Yearly Meeting community.

New York State State-wide Child Abuse Hot Line 1-800-342-3720

The State of New York states that if a child is in immediate danger
the local police be called by dialing 911

New Jersey State Child Abuse Hot Line 877-NJ ABUSE (652-2873)

State of Connecticut Child Abuse Hot Line 1-800-842-2288