

**STANDARDS FOR THE PROTECTION OF MINORS  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SILESIA IN KATOWICE**

**ABRIDGED VERSION FOR MINORS**

**I. General provisions**

The University of Silesia in Katowice, hereinafter referred to as the University, has established *the Standards for the Protection of Minors* to ensure the preservation of your dignity, respect for your rights, and provision of a secure environment. These standards are designed to create favourable conditions for your education and development according to your individual capacities and requirements, within an atmosphere characterized by benevolence, respect, acceptance, and safety.

**II. Definitions**

1. A minor is anyone under the age of 18.
2. "Abuse of a minor" includes any act, intentional or unintentional, by an adult or another minor that may cause harm and danger. It also refers to the lack of proper care from a parent or guardian. This includes:
  - 1) Physical abuse (any form of pain)
  - 2) Emotional abuse (insults, humiliation, ridicule)
  - 3) Sexual abuse (violation of your privacy)
  - 4) Neglect and negligent treatment (situations where your basic needs are not met).

**III. Prohibited behaviour towards minors**

University Employees have a duty to be alert to any abuse of you or any other minor. It is unacceptable to harm you in any way.

In particular, no one has the right to:

- 1) Use physical violence against you or abuse a position of physical superiority, e.g. hit, push, shove, or restrict your freedom of movement
- 2) Use psychological violence against you or abuse a position of power, e.g. humiliate, ridicule, intimidate, threaten, ignore, isolate, discriminate, or abuse
- 3) Make negative remarks or comments about your appearance, background, gender identity, sexual orientation, economic situation, or health and fitness status
- 4) Offer you alcohol, tobacco, or illegal psychoactive substances
- 5) Become romantically, emotionally, or sexually involved with you
- 6) Behave indecently or inappropriately in your presence, for example, by using foul language, making offensive remarks, or referring to sexual attraction
- 7) Disclose sensitive information, particularly regarding your family, economic, medical, or legal situation, to unauthorized persons, including other minors.
- 8) Spread untrue information about you, as well as degrading, insulting, and ridiculing material of any kind.
- 9) Publish your image without your and your parent's consent, except if your image is only a detail of a whole, such as a gathering, a landscape, or a public event.

When interacting with another minor, please remember the following guidelines:

- 1) Do not use any form of violence.
- 2) Treat the minor with respect and do not offend their sense of dignity.
- 3) Respect the rights and freedoms of other minors within socially accepted norms and values.
- 4) Respect the right to privacy of other minors.
- 5) Maintain friendliness and personal decorum.

6) Control your behaviour when expressing views and opinions.

7) Express yourself in a way that does not hurt, stigmatize, or offend anyone. This includes refraining from using vulgar words, gestures, or jokes, and from making offensive remarks.

8) Report any violence you witness or have information about to a University Employee.

#### **IV Procedure for intervention in the case of abuse of a minor**

(1) In the event of any form of abuse by adults or other minors, or suspicion of such abuse of another minor, the Rector's Plenipotentiary for the Protection of Minors (contact details available on the University's website) or any other member of University staff should be informed to initiate the appropriate procedure.

(2) Do not be afraid to report abuse; you will not suffer any unpleasant consequences if you do so. It is also nothing to be ashamed of.

#### **V Principles and manner of accessing the Standards**

(1) The Standards are available in full and in abridged form on the University's website.

(2) Printed copies of the Standards are also available for inspection at the Office of the Rector of the University.