

## YMCA AND YOUTH

Since its inception, the Y has been dedicated to helping youth and families.

Our cause is strengthening community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

### OLYMPIC PENINSULA YMCA

YMCA OF PORT ANGELES

302 S. Francis Street

Port Angeles, WA 98362

360-452-9244

YMCA OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

1925 Blaine Street- PO Box 1637

Port Townsend, WA 98368

360-385-5811

YMCA OF SEQUIM

610 North 5th Avenue

Sequim, WA 98382

360-477-4381



## YMCA CHILD SAFE POLICY

### Our Screening

To keep children in our programs safe we take the following steps in our intensive screening of employees and volunteers:

- Detailed application forms
- Comprehensive interview process
- Reference checks
- Criminal background and sex offender record checks

### Our Training

Olympic Peninsula YMCA employees complete a child abuse prevention training program. All staff members are mandated to report any suspected child abuse.

### Our Policies

Staff is prohibited from working one-on-one with youth outside of the YMCA (i.e. babysitting). Policies are enforced to ensure staff/volunteers are never alone with a child. Our Child Abuse Prevention Plan is available upon request.

Family members are welcome to visit unannounced, observe any program in which their child participates and are encouraged to express concerns to staff members in charge or a Program Director. All interactions with adults and children are observable and interruptible.

Staff and volunteers will not exchange personal e-mail addresses or phone numbers with youth participants.

## INFORMATION ABOUT ABUSE

The YMCA wants all children to be safe. Unfortunately, child abuse does exist, taking many forms.

**Emotional** – Threatening a child or using words that can hurt a child’s feelings and self esteem; withholding love and support from a child.

**Physical** – Causing injuries to a child on purpose, such as bruises, burns, scars, or broken bones.

**Sexual** – Having sexual contact in any form with a child, including exposing,

### IF YOU SUSPECT ABUSE...

- If you think your child is physically injured, seek out appropriate medical attention.
- If you see signs of distress, withdrawal, or acting out, consider counseling for your child.
- Talk to your YMCA Program Director for assistance.
- Call Child Protective Services (CPS) or the police to report any abuse.

## WORKING TOGETHER FOR SAFETY

**Talk to your child** about his or her experiences in YMCA programs, school, sports, and other activities.

Drop in on your child's programs.

**Trust your instincts.** Don't wait to tell us if something seems "strange." Speak up!

### **Watch for warning signs of abuse:**

- Unexplainable bruising or other physical markings
- Disturbed sleeping or eating patterns
- Abrupt changes in behavior-anxiety, clinging, aggressiveness, withdrawal, depression
- Fear of certain person or place
- Discomfort with physical contact
- A child who abuses other children

**Listen and watch for signs of your child receiving special attention** that other children or teens are not receiving, including favors, treats, gifts, rides, increasing affection or time alone, particularly outside the activities of school, child care, or other activities.

### **Every once in a while, ask your child these questions:**

- Is anyone scaring or threatening you?
- Is anyone asking you to keep secrets?
- Has anyone said anything to you that made you feel bad?
- Is anyone touching you in a way that you don't like?



## CHILD SAFE RESOURCES

If you have any questions or concerns regarding a YMCA staff person or programs, make a confidential call to CPS at:

**Daytime:** 1-360-565-2240

**Nights & Weekends:** call 1-800-562-5624

**Hotline:** 1-866-ENDHARM (1-866-363-4276), Washington State's toll-free, 24 hour, 7 day a-week hotline

### **YMCA CONTACT:**

#### **Wendy Bart, CEO**

360-452-9244 ext. 890, or  
360-504-0526  
wendy@olympicpeninsulaymca.org

#### **Sarah Hinis**

Youth Development Program Executive  
360-452-9244 ext. 105  
sarah.hinis@olympicpeninsulaymca.org



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# CREATING A CHILD SAFE ENVIRON- MENT

**Olympic Peninsula  
YMCA**

