

District 7210 Youth Exchange Program Exchange Student Protection Policy Information for the Inbound /Outbound Exchange Student

Your safety is the first priority of all of us involved in the District 7210 Youth Exchange Program. We hope the following information will help you keep yourself safe.

Please read carefully the **Guidelines for Safeguarding the Welfare of Youth Exchange Students**. This will help you understand some of the dangers concerning abuse, and what you can do to avoid them.

The **Emergency Contacts Form** contains all the names and contact information from the Youth Exchange Officer in your Host Club to the District Chairperson. They are all ready to help you if you need them.

It is also important for you to have the name and contact information for your sponsoring Rotary District Youth Exchange Officer, and the sponsoring Rotary District Chairperson. Send monthly reports home to these contacts so that they know how you are doing.

As a precaution, set up a “secret message” with your parents to be used in an extreme emergency if you feel you cannot talk freely with them by phone. Do the same with your Host Family.

The **Exchange Student’s Bill of Rights** should reassure you about trusting your own feelings. You know what feels right and wrong to you, and the Bill of Rights supports your right to protect yourself.

Your **Personal Safety Code** will help you know how to conduct yourself safely under certain circumstances.

District 7210 makes the following commitment to our Youth Exchange Students:

- We are committed to ensuring the safety of every student
- We will take any allegations or reports of abuse of any kind seriously
- Students should continue reporting their concerns until someone listens seriously
- Physical force of any kind is never an appropriate form of discipline
- No student will be sent home because of an allegation of abuse, unless they wish it or their safety is in question

In addition please learn the **Three R’s for Your Protection**

- **Recognize** that anyone could make inappropriate sexual advances toward you and be aware of situations that could lead to abuse
- **Resist** advances from another person that make you uncomfortable
- **Report** any situation that makes you uncomfortable to your host parents or other trusted adults