



## Code of Conduct for Minors

### **Attend pre-trip briefings, educate yourself, read the trip itinerary:**

There is a lot to remember as you prepare to embark on your Service Learning Trip! Be sure that you are prepared and have all of the necessary documents and information to ensure a smooth trip process. Join all pre-trip events and briefings, read about the country you are visiting, review the itinerary with your parents and please ask any questions you may have to your Trip Coordinator.

### **Use A Buddy System Daily:**

Traveling as a group has many moving parts; making use of the buddy system ensures the safety of everyone. You will be paired up with a buddy and must always be certain of where your buddy is - if they are in the bathroom, on an excursion, having breakfast - make sure you know where your buddy is at all times and that they know where you are. If your buddy is missing, report it immediately to your Chaperone.

### **Stay with your group and be on time:**

There are many logistics that go into a Service Learning Trip and delays cause disruptions to the programs. Buses, trip leaders, staff, and even patients for the Mobile Clinics are waiting on us. Make sure you and your buddy are early or on time every day. Ask a Chaperone or Trip Leader if you are uncertain of the schedule, as we review it daily.

### **Follow the safety precautions and guidelines during mobile clinics, project and community visits:**

Listen to the instructions of MEDLIFE staff, Trip Leaders and Chaperones. Our team wants to ensure all participants are safe, and this requires that everyone follow instructions. If you notice that someone is not following instructions, let them know or advise your Chaperone or Trip Leader.

### **Follow your Trip Leader and chaperone instructions at ALL times:**

If a Trip Leader or Chaperone asks you to do something, listen to their instructions knowing that their priority is to keep you safe, and to support you to the best of their ability.

### **Be aware of your surroundings and others:**

A MEDLIFE trip is different from a typical school trip to a museum or touristic attraction. We are visiting vulnerable communities and providing medical and educational support in communities that do not often see tourism. Be aware of where you are walking and ensure you follow your group and staff. Traffic in our SLT destinations varies greatly from home, be aware at all times of moving vehicles, and don't trust that cars will stop - ensure it is safe before crossing.

### **Be courteous and polite to staff, patients and other students:**

Participating in a Service Learning Trip is similar to attending school or a workplace. There are rules and expectations of each participant and you are representing your school and MEDLIFE. Act with professionalism and courtesy at all times - whether this is with other students, teachers, staff, or patients in the community, or experiencing other elements of the itinerary such as the adventure excursions in areas where other tourists or citizens may be enjoying themselves as well - everyone deserves respect.



**Support others - Staff, Chaperones and students:**

MEDLIFE Staff or Chaperones may require assistance with setup of projects or Mobile Clinics, or simply helping to load luggage or items from transport. If a Chaperone or Staff member asks for your assistance, please proceed to help them. If for some reason you are not capable of helping due to a mobility issue or otherwise, advise them and assist them in finding someone who can help.

**Never go out on your own or deviate from the group:**

There are many participants in a MEDLIFE Service Learning Trip; do your part to follow the rules and don't go out on your own. Failure to follow the rules or stay with the group could cause major disruptions to the trip and even require the support of emergency services, such as police, to locate you. We will do our best to provide opportunities to explore our surroundings, but it should always be done in a group setting with MEDLIFE Staff or Chaperones. If you know someone is going out on their own, report it immediately - for everyone's safety and wellbeing.

**Rooming and lights out:**

Male trip participants can not enter female trip participants' rooms, and vice versa. MEDLIFE trip participants must never enter the rooms of other hotel guests. Any free time at the hotel - outside of meals and bedtime - may only be spent in Chaperone/Trip Leader supervised common areas. Students must not be in various parts of the hotel without the presence of a Chaperone or Trip Leader. Lights out is 10:45 PM - do not go out of your room after lights out except for the case of an emergency. If you need assistance, find your MEDLIFE Trip Leader's room or a Chaperone - *do not go to the hotel reception* unless you have first consulted your Trip Leader or Chaperone. Prioritize a good night's sleep in order to participate fully in the next day's events - there are lots of early mornings and full days!

**Keep your room and belongings tidy and organized - lost/stolen items are your responsibility:**

Ensure that your valuables are stored away safely and that you lock your doors at all times when you are not in the room. MEDLIFE and the hotel cannot be held responsible for lost or stolen items; ensure that you know where they are at all times. If you do lose something, report it to a Chaperone or Trip Leader immediately. Something like a lost passport could affect your ability to leave the country; ensure that you know where it is at all times.

**Report unsafe, or suspicious activity immediately:**

Whether this is a fellow student, or a stranger, if you see something suspicious, let someone know immediately. While MEDLIFE participants are roomed together, you will be staying in public hotel facilities with non-MEDLIFE travelers. We must all do our part to report any unsafe or suspicious activity.

**Participate, ask questions and have fun:**

A Service Learning Trip is a great environment to learn about the world around you. It is a safe environment to ask questions and challenge some of your beliefs. We welcome the opportunity to talk about the things that we are seeing and doing each day, and will have opportunities to discuss in Post-Clinic Activities throughout the trip.

**We are here to help you and support you:**

Traveling to a new country and visiting a new culture can lead to a lot of different feelings. Excitement, nervousness, anxiety among others. These are normal behaviors and feelings. Chaperones and MEDLIFE

