



POST REPORT PROCEDURES

The student's Club Youth Exchange Officer, District Area Coordinator and the District Youth Exchange Chair are responsible for ensuring that the following steps are taken immediately following an abuse allegation is reported.

1. The District Youth Exchange Chair will confirm that the student has been removed from the situation immediately and all contact with alleged abuser or harasser.
2. The District Youth Exchange Chair will contact the District Protection officer to initiate an investigation and ensure that the appropriate law enforcement agency has been notified). If law enforcement agencies will not investigate, the District Protection Officer will conduct an independent investigation into the allegations.
3. Ensure the student receives immediate support services psychological counseling.
4. Offer the student an independent, non-Rotarian counselor to help safeguard the interests of the student. The District YE Chair along with the Area Coordinator will seek someone who is not a Rotarian or in any way involved with the Youth Exchange program.
5. The District Youth Exchange Chair will contact the student's parents or legal guardian. If away from home, provide the student with the option of either staying in country or returning home.
6. The District Youth Exchange Chair will ensure the alleged abuser or harasser is removed from all contact with the specific student and other youth while investigations are conducted.
7. The District Protection Officer will cooperate with the police or legal investigation.
8. The District Governor will coordinate with the District Youth Exchange Chair to inform Rotary International of the allegation within 72 hours, and provide follow-up reports of steps taken, the outcome of all investigations, and resulting actions.

Post Allegation Report Guidelines - Responding to the Needs of the Student

There will need to be a cohesive and managed team approach to supporting the student after an allegation report. The student is likely to feel embarrassed, confused, and may become withdrawn and appear to be avoiding members of the host family or club. After a report of harassment or abuse, students may or may not want to remain on their exchange. If they do, they may or may not want to continue their relationship with their hosting Rotary club depending on the circumstances. In some cases, a student may wish to remain in country, but change to a different host club.

It may be difficult for club members and host families to understand how the student is feeling, but it would be helpful for the student to know that the club remains a support for them. Club members and host families may experience ambiguity toward their roles and may feel unclear regarding their boundaries. However they need to do whatever is necessary to reassure the student of their support at all times.

Appropriate Response for Addressing Issues within the Rotary Club for Allegations Made Against Rotarians or Non-Rotarians

When addressing an allegation of abuse or harassment, the most important concern is the safety of the students. Club members should not speculate, make editorial comments, or offer personal opinions that could potentially hinder any police or criminal investigations. Club members should be cautioned about speculating or commenting on the matter during the investigations. Comments made about alleged victims in support of alleged abusers do not support our statement of conduct or Rotary ideals. Comments made against an alleged abuser could lead to a slander or libel claim filed against Rotarians or clubs by the alleged abuser.