

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

St. Mary of the Angels, Angel Home Rehabilitation Centre

1. Introduction & Legal Framework

St. Mary of the Angels, Angel Home Rehabilitation Centre is committed to safeguarding every child under our care, in full alignment with the principles outlined in the Nagaland Child Protection Policy (CPP). We also adhere to national mandates under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, and work in collaboration with state-level child protection mechanisms including the District Child Protection Units (DCPU), Child Welfare Committees (CWC), and Childline 1098 services.

2. Purpose & Scope

This policy ensures a safe, respectful environment for all children in our care. It defines clear codes of conduct, reporting protocols, and roles for staff, volunteers, and visitors, ensuring compliance with both the Nagaland CPP and national child protection laws.

3. Definitions & Core Principles

A child is defined as any individual under the age of 18. Child protection covers all forms of abuse, including physical, emotional, sexual abuse, and neglect. Core principles include prioritizing child welfare, ensuring universal protection regardless of background, respecting the voice of the child, and maintaining collective responsibility for safeguarding.

4. Code of Conduct

All staff, volunteers, and associates must:

- Treat every child with respect and dignity.
- Avoid all forms of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse.
- Never share personal identifiers or images of children without consent.
- Maintain transparency by ensuring a two-adult presence where appropriate.
- Avoid private interactions and sharing personal contact details.
- Report any suspicion or incident of abuse immediately to the designated Child Protection Officer.

5. Reporting & Response Protocols

Any suspicion or incident of abuse must be reported to the Child Protection Officer immediately. The officer will coordinate with the relevant authorities, including DCPU, CWC, or Childline 1098, where necessary. Confidentiality will be maintained at every stage, and necessary medical, legal, or counseling support will be arranged.

6. Governance & Oversight

A designated Child Protection Officer will oversee implementation, reporting, and compliance with this policy. All staff and volunteers are required to undergo regular training and background verification.

7. Training, Monitoring & Review

All personnel receive mandatory induction training on child protection protocols. Regular refresher workshops are conducted, and the policy is reviewed annually to ensure effectiveness and address emerging needs.

8. Child & Community Engagement

We create child-friendly awareness materials and involve children, parents, and the wider community in discussions on safety, rights, and reporting mechanisms. This promotes collective responsibility for child protection.

9. Policy Approval & Acknowledgement

This policy is approved and endorsed by the leadership of St. Mary of the Angels, Angel Home Rehabilitation Centre. All staff, volunteers, and associates are required to acknowledge and commit to upholding this policy in writing.