

## **MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY POLICY**

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|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|
| Policy #:               | 02-0013                 |                           |  |                         |  |
| Name of Policy:         | Minors on Campus Policy |                           |  |                         |  |
| Date of Last Revision:  | March 2023              | Initial Date of Approval: |  | Initial Effective Date: |  |
| Policy Owner            | Human Resources         |                           |  |                         |  |
| Policy/Chapter Sections |                         |                           |  |                         |  |
| Date of Next Review:    | March 2026              |                           |  |                         |  |

### **1.0 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to encourage the security, safety, and wellness of minors who are participating in programs offered by Missouri Southern State University (MSSU) or who participate in programs on our campus. Minors must have adult supervision at all times, unless they are a full-time or dual-enrolled student.

### **2.0 SCOPE**

This policy applies to all University administration, faculty, staff, and students, and all such parties are expected to abide by the procedural guidelines outlined herein.

### **3.0 POLICY**

Minors come to Missouri Southern State University for a variety of reasons. They may be on campus as current, prospective, or dual credit students, a participant on a field trip or community service project or attending a camp or event. Regardless of the reason for their presence, University personnel are to be particularly vigilant regarding their safety and security.

MSSU welcomes dual-enrolled high school students and minors who are attending summer camps that utilize the University's facilities.

All minors are expected to be aware of and abide by all applicable University policies. The University fosters a safe and effective teaching and learning environment and strives for a workplace free from unnecessary disruptions and distractions.

The workplace is typically not an appropriate place for children of employees. However, the university recognizes that employees may occasionally need to bring children to the workplace for brief visits, specific campus events, situational convenience, or family emergencies. Children are not to be brought to the workplace on a regular basis in lieu of childcare. The University prohibits leaving minors unattended on campus.

Minor students may not live in the residence halls or be treated in the Willcoxon Health Center without parental consent and/or written permission from the Dean of Students or designee.

This policy does not apply to events on campus that are open to the general public and which minors attend at the sole discretion of their parents/guardians and are accompanied by their parents/guardians.

Full-time or dual-enrolled minor students are allowed to use the Beimdiek Recreation Center upon the completion of the waiver form.

### **Reporting Suspected Abuse or Neglect**

Consistent with Missouri law, it is the University's policy that any employee who has reasonable cause to suspect that a minor child has been or may be subjected to abuse or neglect or observes a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances that would reasonably result in abuse or neglect shall immediately make a report to the Children's Division Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline (1-800-392- 3738). Subsequently, the reporter should provide relevant information to the following College official: Christina Means, Director of Human Resources (417-625-9805 or means-c@mssu.edu). The University cannot begin an investigation into the matter until the reporter has made the report to the Missouri hotline. For purposes of reporting suspected abuse or neglect under this policy, a minor child is any person under the age of eighteen years old. For purposes of this policy, "employee" includes students who are working with minor children in a field experience, clinical environment, camp setting, or other similar situations (e.g., student teachers, nursing interns, camp counselors, etc.). "Reasonable cause" does not require that the individual making the observation conduct an investigation prior to making the report of his or her suspicion that a child has been abused or neglected or is at risk of it. The University will ensure that any employee making a report of child abuse or neglect has immediate and unrestricted access to communications technology necessary to make an immediate report and will temporarily relieve the employee of other work duties so that a report can be made.

If there is reason to believe that the victim of the abuse or neglect is a resident of another state or was injured as a result of an act that occurred in another state, the report may be made to the child protection agency of that other state having authority to receive such reports pursuant to that state's laws in lieu of reporting it on the Missouri Children's Division Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline. If that other state's agency accepts the report, no report is required to be made to the Missouri hotline, though it is still appropriate to do so. Missouri law grants any person making a good faith report of suspected child abuse or neglect immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise result by reason of such action. Nothing in this policy is intended to prevent non-employees, such as students and visitors, from making a report if they have reasonable cause to suspect that child abuse or neglect has occurred or may occur.

### **4.0 HISTORY**

This policy may be revised, edited, changed or removed at any time with or without notice to applicable individuals.

## **5.0 RELATED DOCUMENTS**

None.