



Sede Clinica 'Arenula'
Tel.: 06 45481515 - www.praxislacianiana.it

Collegio di Clinica Psicoanalitica Onlus,
Spazio clinico di *Praxis* - FCL in Italia
Centro di Consultazione Psicoanalitica, in collaborazione con
Formazioni Cliniche del Campo lacaniano,
Scuola di Psicoanalisi dei Forum del Campo lacaniano [EPFCL-France]

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Introduzione

The College of Psychoanalytical Clinic-non profit organization (hereinafter referred to as "CPC") strives to be a safe organization for all those who attend it and, in particular, for children (girls, boys and adolescents). The staff of the CCP includes highly specialized professionals in disciplines that deal with trauma in its various aspects and from different standpoints (psychoanalysts, psychologists, psychiatrists, child neuropsychiatrists, pedagogues, etc..) and is trained to recognize signs of violence or abuse not only on a physical level, but in particular on the psychic one, as defined by the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), signed in 1989. Article 19 of UNCRC, in fact, requires that children should be protected against "physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child".

Later, in 1999, the WHO Consultation on Child Abuse Prevention, outlined a similar definition: "Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power."

Bearing this in mind, the policy for the protection of minors is addressed to all the staff: first of all, to clinical care providers and members of the CPC, as well as consultants, volunteers, interns, trainees and administrative staff, and covers all the interventions of the non-profit organization. All the subjects mentioned above must always demonstrate the highest standards of behavior towards children and adolescents. These standards are assured by continuous training and weekly meetings of an organizational and training nature, and by the personal psychoanalysis of all the operators who take care of trauma-related situations in a more specific way. These standards are thus guaranteed in the professional practice of the staff and of everyone else who carries out activities within the CPC, and they are also assumed in non-working life.

CPC is committed to ensuring that all its staff (including volunteers, trainees and interns) and the staff of partner organizations with which it works:

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- are aware and adequately informed of issues related to sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, physical violence and related risks to children. Children themselves and their families will be made aware, in the most appropriate way, of the rules of conduct they can expect from staff;
- minimize the risks in order to prevent any harm to minors, that is to say to ensure an environment in which the rights of the child are always protected and the best interests of the child are paramount (UNCRC, art. 3.);
- are aware of cases in which it is necessary to report a suspicion of possible abuse, and of the consequent actions to be taken.

The CCP is also committed to ensuring effective intervention in response to any report of abuse or mistreatment by supporting and protecting the child involved.

The Institutional Person in charge and the Governing Bodies are responsible for monitoring compliance with the rules governing the activities of the CPC by each member of staff and by anyone who, for whatever reason, attends it.

Each member of the staff is personally involved in the protection of the physical and mental health of all children they contact. The staff will also have a space within the weekly collegial work, on request, to receive the necessary support in the face of problematic cases or at risk with regard to the protection of minors.

To allow a minor to attend/be taken care of at the Centre, the Secretariat must obtain the appropriate informed consent form, signed by the parents or legal guardians.

Policy objectives

1. welcome anyone who requests it, especially minors who may have been subjected to violence or ill-treatment, to ensure that everyone is heard in a safe environment that guarantees respect for the most private aspects;
2. make minors aware, to develop an active role in their own protection and in that of their peers;
3. support all those who work with children and young people to act in the interest of their development and protection;
4. activate safe and transparent listening channels that guarantee personal listening to all interlocutors;
5. inform girls and boys, on a case-by-case basis, about child protection policy, according to their structure and development.

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Area of application

This Policy applies:

- to the members of the CPC;
- to consultants, clinical care providers, supporters, practitioners, doctors, volunteers and others, and to anyone who works in the CPC;
- to staff of partners and any other individual, group or organization that have relations with the CPC involving direct contact with minors or vulnerable adults.

Definitions

The CPC uses the same terminology as most international agencies, the United Nations, the European Union, the Council of Europe and other organisations committed in the protection of children and adolescents.

The definitions of terms for the implementation of the present Policy are listed below.

Violence is defined as any non-fortuitous behaviour by parent(s), legal guardian(s), or any other person, resulting in potential or actual harm to the health, development or dignity of the child or adolescent. Such behaviour may be intentional or unintentional and includes both omissions (e.g. negligence) and acts of commission (e.g. abuse). Within this broad definition, some main categories of maltreatment can be identified:

- Child maltreatment refers to any act deliberately carried out by a parent or person in a position of power, responsibility and trust towards the child or young person and which may cause potential or actual harm to the child's safety, well-being, dignity and development. It covers all forms of physical and psychological harm, which are associated with abuse of power and betrayal of the child's trust by the adult.
- Physical maltreatment is defined as any conduct that causes actual or potential physical harm to a child or adolescent and that is carried out by an adult or a peer (bullying).
- Sexual abuse is the involvement, as an object of enjoyment, of a child or adolescent in sexual activities, with or without physical contact, by an adult or a peer.
- Psychic maltreatment refers to repeated behaviour over time that affects the emotional, cognitive and relational development of the child or adolescent and his or her perception of himself or herself. In particular, psychic abuse is achieved through withholding the child and adolescent the possibility of showing through speech their condition of discomfort, distress, anguish, which are indicators of the subjective conditions of trauma.



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- Neglect or negligent treatment means inadequate attention to the material and emotional needs of the child or adolescent, by parents or any other person who have the care of them, while having the means. This includes the inability to protect the child or adolescent from potential dangers and to guarantee and protect his or her basic needs such as medical care, education and adequate emotional growth, often to the point of exposing him or her to physical and emotional prejudice.
- Exploitation is the use of a child for the benefit, enjoyment or profit of a third party. These activities expose the child to unjust, cruel and dangerous treatment and are detrimental to his emotional, social and moral development and to his physical and mental health.
- Sexual exploitation refers to any activity in which a person takes advantage of his or her position of power towards a child or adolescent, of his or her confidence and vulnerability, for sexual purposes aimed at making economic, social or political profits. The child is then exploited both as a sexual object and as a commercial object.
- Economic exploitation refers to the use of a child or adolescent in particularly risky work activities that compromise the psycho-physical well-being and undermine their right to education, health and the possibility of making bonds. Economic exploitation implies making profits for the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services with an impact on the economy of a given unit, be it the state, the community or the family.
- Harm means the consequences of exploitation, violence, mistreatment and neglect towards children and adolescents and damage to their psycho-physical, emotional and behavioural development, health, social and family ties, their right to education and their aspirations.
- Witnessed violence refers to any situation in which a minor assists, directly or indirectly, or perceives the effects of acts of violence committed on figures of reference that are affectively significant for him or her.

Staff recruitment

Recruitment of staff is subject to the acceptance of continuous training which has as its main moment the personal analysis, in progress or incipient, and as an integral part of the practice of supervision of cases, participation in weekly meetings of epistemological-clinical nature and participation in the Cartel of study. This method of recruitment, which also involves trainees and interns, ensures the awareness, prevention and training necessary for the exercise of protection of minors.



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Awareness-raising and training

At the beginning of each new collaborative relationship, the CPC provides all the information so that staff can have a common and shared definition of what constitutes a type or manifestation of abuse, exploitation, violence and neglect of minors. It is important that all the staff is aware of and able to manage situations that present risks. All CPC staff must sign this Policy for acceptance.

The CPC is committed to provide the professionals dedicated to taking care of children (and adults) with support, supervision and control, as well as regular advice with specialists of international relevance belonging to the EPFCL (*École de Psychanalyse des Forums du Champ lacanien*).

For each new member of staff, the CPC will provide ad hoc training, structured into the following pillars, as outlined above: 1) continuous training; 2) personal analysis; 3) supervision of cases; 4) participation in weekly epistemic-clinical meetings; 5) participation in the study groups named *Cartel*; 6) accurate acquisition of the fundamental elements of this Policy.

The awareness-raising activity aimed at protecting children and adolescents is therefore part of the CPC's commitment to the following actions:

1. Awareness: to ensure that the whole staff is aware of the phenomena of maltreatment, neglect and exploitation of children and adolescents, and the potential risks associated with them;
2. Prevention and care: to ensure risk reduction through the dissemination of good practices, and make a dedicated and respectful use of any information that everyone will become aware of;
3. Reporting: ensure that people involved in CPC projects and activities have exact knowledge of measures to put in place and are able to detect promptly potential hazardous situations for children and adolescents.

Roma, 11th October 2018