

DEFINITIONS

WHO IS A VOLUNTEER?

*“A **volunteer** is any person who, of his or her own free will, provides services to the University (and its programs) with no monetary compensation, on a continuous, occasional, or one-time basis.”*

Rules of University of Florida, 6CI-3.0031 (1b)

An **adult volunteer** - anyone age 18 and over.

A **teen volunteer** - is between the ages of 14 -19.

“All volunteers shall be at least 14 years of age.”

Rules of University of Florida, 6CI-3.0031 (3a)

RISK MANAGEMENT

Definitions

Risk management - is protecting assets by minimizing the potential for negative outcomes.

Assets - are things of value held by a person or organization.

Three Assets = 3 P's

4. People = clientele, members, volunteers, paid faculty and staff
5. Property = things the organization or individual owns or manages, such as: money, buildings, equipment or materials.
6. Perpetuation = an organization's (reputation) ability to continue doing the business they do best.

Risk Management Strategies

Retain the Risk - Accept the risk and prepare for the possibilities that loss can occur.

An organization or individual can create a fund to cover such situations or absorb expenses from current, existing resources when loss occurs. Many risks are retained, especially when the consequences are deemed minor, or, at least, acceptable within the situation.

Reduce the Risk - Change the conditions to decrease likelihood that loss will occur.

Some ways to reduce risk is to: select and train staff; restrict and secure hazardous areas; develop emergency procedures; and, provide (increased) adequate supervision.

Share the Risk – Find someone to share some of the risk.

The risk can be shared by contract, agreement, or insurance. Contracting with a business for transportation or for recreation (roller skating) can shift the primary liability to the contractor. Carrying insurance transfers the financial part of the risk to the insurer in exchange for a payment.

Avoid the Risk – Means the activity is not held.

If the risks are too severe and the possibilities of risk are too great, then it may be unacceptable to conduct the activity. Even a reasonably safe activity may be too risky if stakes are high and insurance can not be secured, for an acceptable cost.

RISK MANAGEMENT FOR ESTABLISHING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS FOR YOUTH

Abuse

Any willful act or threatened act that results in physical, mental or sexual injury...or significant impairment....

Florida Abuse Hotline, Sept. 2000

Maltreatment

Includes emotional, physical, sexual abuse or neglect.

Neglect

Occurs when a child is deprived or, or is allowed to be deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter, or medical treatment....

Florida Abuse Hotline, Sept. 2000

Negligent

Is conduct in which a reasonable and prudent person would not engage.

Reasonable and Prudent

Means that a person acts in a way that others, who have similar background and training, would act in these circumstances.

Threatened Harm

A situation, circumstances, or behavior which leads a prudent person to have reasonable cause to suspect abuse or neglect has occurred, or may occur in the immediate future, if no intervention is provided.

Source

Adapted from: University of Illinois, Extension 4-H, "Avoiding a Can of Worms: Developing Risk Management Strategies for 4-H Meetings and Events."