

# University of Michigan – Flint

## Children on Campus FAQs

University of Michigan policy clearly defines expectations on managing the health, wellness, safety and security of children and teens while on campus or in the university's care.

**The following questions and answers help explain how the policy applies to:**

- [University-sponsored program faculty, staff, students and volunteers](#)
- [Parents and Guardians](#)
- [Non-university-sponsored program staff and volunteers](#)

The policy can be found in the [U-M Standard Practice Guide: Policy on Minors Involved in University Sponsored Programs or Programs Held in University Facilities](#).

Additional questions about managing programs involving children and teens can be directed to Tonja Petrella, HR: [tpetrell@umflint.edu](mailto:tpetrell@umflint.edu).

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### University-sponsored program faculty, staff, students and volunteers

**Q. I understand there's a robust policy for children and teen programming, what do I do first?**

A. A quick and easy checklist on how to comply with policy can be found here: [Program Planning Checklist](#)

- We require programs to meet all of the following guidelines:
- Register university-sponsored programs and activities involving children and teens.
- Follow the established Code of Conduct.
- Submit to criminal background screening of all staff or volunteers.
- Use university-provided templates for participant forms.
- Ensure faculty, staff, students, and volunteers complete required training.
- Adhere to all reporting obligations.

**Q. Why was the policy created?**

A. The university's goal is to enhance the existing efforts on children's programming by sharing best practices and centralized resources to ensure a positive experience for all.

Also, the registry provides parents with the opportunity to search for U-M Flint sponsored programs.

**Q. To whom does the policy apply?**

A. The policy applies to all university-sponsored programs and non-university programs using U-M Flint facilities involving youth.

All administrators, faculty, staff, students and volunteers on the Flint campus are expected to follow the established guidelines.

**Q. What type of programs fall under the new policy?**

A. All programs involving children and teens fall under the new policy.

Examples include:

- Summer camps.
- Specialty camps such as academic camps or patient camps.
- Outreach activities and pipeline programs.
- Workshops, conferences and educational programs.
- Tutoring.
- Licensed childcare facilities and programs.
- Sponsored student organization activities.
- Programs and events involving children that take place in U-M Flint facilities or on U-M Flint property.

**Q. How far in advance must a program be registered?**

A. Programs must be registered within sufficient time to meet the requirements of this policy, but no later than 60 days before the program start date. Annual registration is required.

**Q. How is the policy enforced?**

A. Each U-M Flint Cabinet Officer, Dean, Director, and Department Head has responsibility for ensuring that their units implement the policy. Human Resources has general oversight.

**Q. Will implementation of the policy require additional staff responsibility or administrative resources?**

A. No, it shouldn't. The policy builds on the great work already in place at the university. It is intended to provide additional support and resources to programs- not create barriers for people to continue to do good work.

**Q. My program has unique circumstances, and I'm not sure how to implement the policy. What should I do?**

A. We are committed to working with programs with unique circumstances to help them identify how best to comply with the policy. Those with questions are encouraged to contact Tonja Petrella at [tpetrell@umflint.edu](mailto:tpetrell@umflint.edu).

**Q. Who must complete a background check and how often are they required?**

A. Background checks are required for all individuals who participate in programs involving children and teens; the requirement applies to university-sponsored programs and non-university-sponsored programs. Background checks are required before an individual begins working with children and teens, and then every two years thereafter.

**Q. How do I arrange for background checks for staff and volunteers for university-sponsored programs?**

A. Background checks for university-sponsored programs are conducted by a third party vendor, and are paid for by the university. Human Resources administers the background check. Please contact Tawana Branch at [brancht@umflint.edu](mailto:brancht@umflint.edu).

**Q. What does the background check include?**

A. The background screening consists of a review of criminal records for the past seven years in counties where credit was established (limited to a total of seven counties), Social Security verification and the National Sex Offender Registry. Foreign nationals undergo screening through the Visa screening process conducted by the State Department.

**Q. How are the checks administered, and what is the notification process?**

After a request for a background check has been submitted by a program administrator, applicants receive an email invitation from a third party vendor to submit their information on a secured website. The vendor provides 7 days for program participant response before the background check request is canceled. Human Resources and Risk Management in Ann Arbor will then notify the applicant and program administrators once the background check is completed. Estimated turnaround time is two weeks.

**Q. If a background check reveals a criminal record history, will the applicant be immediately denied?**

A. No. If a background check reveals a criminal record history, the applicant will be notified and their application will be reviewed by Human Resources for evaluation consistent with university policy.

**Q. Can background checks be waived?**

A. Yes, in certain instances. For example, many of the professional school students submit to criminal background checks as part of their field placement, clinical experience, etc. If a check is already required for that experience, meets university requirements and is within a two-year timeframe, then a second background check is not necessary. Record of the background check must be provided and verified before the individual can interact with children or teens.

For additional information about waivers of background checks contact Tonja Petrella, Human Resources at [tpetrell@umflint.edu](mailto:tpetrell@umflint.edu) or 810-424-5417, or Tawana Branch, Human Resources at [brancht@umflint.edu](mailto:brancht@umflint.edu) or 810-166-6772.

**Q. Why does the policy include reporting obligations?**

A. Each member of the university community and those participating in children and teen programming shares a responsibility to report suspicions of misconduct, abuse or neglect.

All information reported will be handled in a sensitive and confidential manner.

Individuals wishing to report non-emergency information are directed to contact Tonja Petrella, Human Resources at [tpetrell@umflint.edu](mailto:tpetrell@umflint.edu) or 810-424-5417.

If immediate emergency assistance is needed on-campus, please contact the Department of Public Safety by dialing 9-1-1, and then contact UM-Flint Environment, Health & Safety at 810-766-6763 to alert them to the situation. If immediate emergency assistance is needed off-campus, please contact the Police by dialing 9-1-1, and then contact UM-Flint Environment, Health & Safety to alert them to the situation.

To report wrongdoing anonymously, contact University Compliance by calling 866-990-0111, or via their website at <http://compliancehotline.umich.edu/>.

## Parents and Guardians

### **Q. How do I verify my child/teen's program is compliant with the policy?**

A. The program registry lists all the university-sponsored programs that have met the policy requirements, including completion of background checks and the required training.

[Click here to view the registered university-sponsored programs.](#)

\*\*\*Non-university-sponsored programs are not included in the program registry.\*\*\*

### **Q. What type of training do university-sponsored program staff and volunteers complete?**

A. We have a variety of tools and training materials focused on health, safety and security, including first-aid and medication management, proper disciplinary procedures, and detecting and reporting abuse or neglect.

[See our training materials here.](#)

### **Q. How are university-sponsored program staff and volunteers screened?**

A. Background checks are conducted by a third party vendor and are administered by U-M Human Resources.

The background screening consists of a review of criminal records for the past seven years in counties where credit was established (limited to a total of seven counties), Social Security verification and the National Sex Offender Registry. Foreign nationals undergo screening through the Visa screening process conducted by the State Department.

### **Q. Whom do I contact if I have a concern about a program?**

A. We take individuals' concerns about the care and treatment of children and teens very seriously. Those wishing to report misconduct, abuse or neglect are directed to contact Tonja Petrella, Human Resources at [tpetrell@umflint.edu](mailto:tpetrell@umflint.edu) or 810-424-5417.

All information is handled in a sensitive and confidential manner.

If immediate emergency assistance is needed on-campus, please contact the Department of Public Safety by dialing 9-1-1, and then contact UM-Flint Environment, Health & Safety at 810-766-6763 to alert them to the situation. If immediate emergency assistance is needed off-

campus, please contact the Police by dialing 9-1-1, and then contact UM-Flint Environment, Health & Safety to alert them to the situation.

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**Q. I'd like to stay updated on campus safety and security. How do I do that?**

A. For current information on campus safety and security, we recommend visiting the [Department of Public Safety website](#).

**Q. Has this policy had an impact on the cost of my child's camp?**

A. No, the university covers the cost for the requirements of the policy.

## **Non-university-sponsored program staff and volunteers**

**Q. I understand there is a new policy for children and teen programming. What do I do first?**

A. This quick and easy checklist will walk you through the policy for using U-M facilities. See [Third parties –use of facilities guidelines](#).

We require programs to meet all of the following guidelines and provide documentation to the facility manager:

- Complete a [Third Party Acknowledgment of Responsibility form](#).
- Inform participants that your program or activity is not sponsored by U-M.
- Provide proof that staff and volunteers have completed background checks.
- Train staff and volunteers on policies and issues related to health, wellness, safety and security of children/teens, and document their completion.
- Obtain Liability Waiver agreements between each program participant's parent or guardian.
- Immediately report information indicating that a child or teen has, or is suspected to have been, abused or neglected, or other misconduct affecting the safety of children or teens.
- Provide insurance coverage for the duration of the event, program or activity occurring on university property.

**Q. Can I register my non-university-sponsored program?**

A. No. The U-M Flint program registry only includes university-sponsored programs owned and operated by U-M Flint.

**Q. Can I use U-M Flint program training materials for my non-university sponsored program?**

A. Yes, we encourage you to use the available resources for training your program's staff and volunteers.

**Q. Who must complete a background check and how often are they required?**

A. Background checks are required for all individuals who participate in programs involving

children and teens; the requirement applies to university-sponsored programs and non-university-sponsored programs.

Background checks are required before an individual begins working with children and teens, and then every two years thereafter. Administrators of non-university-sponsored programs are required to provide a certificate of background check completion for all individuals involved in their programs.

**Q. Can you provide recommendations for vendors to do background checks?**

A. Background checks should include (at a minimum), a review of the county criminal records for the past seven years of residence, Social Security verification and the National Sex Offender Registry. ICHAT (State of Michigan) checks are not sufficient. While we do not recommend specific providers, we encourage vendors to seek a reputable company offering these services.

**Q. Where do I submit my program's staff/volunteer background check certificate?**

A. The certification of completion of a background check should be provided to the facility manager.

**Q. Whom can I contact for help locating a facility to host my program?**

A. Event and Building Services at the University of Michigan-Flint is a full-service conference and event-planning group that can assist groups looking for space on the university's campus. Individuals wishing to inquire about their services should contact Event and Building Services directly at 810-762-3436, via email at [reservations@list.umflint.edu](mailto:reservations@list.umflint.edu), or [visit their website](#).

**Q. Why does the policy include reporting obligations?**

A. Each member of the university community and those participating in children and teen programming shares a responsibility to report suspicions of misconduct, abuse or neglect.

All information reported is handled in a sensitive and confidential manner.

Individuals wishing to report non-emergency information are directed to contact Tonja Petrella, Human Resources at [tpetrell@umflint.edu](mailto:tpetrell@umflint.edu) or 810-424-5417.

If immediate emergency assistance is needed on-campus, please contact the Department of Public Safety by dialing 9-1-1, and then contact UM-Flint Environment, Health & Safety at 810-766-6763 to alert them to the situation. If immediate emergency assistance is needed off-campus, please contact the Police by dialing 9-1-1, and then contact UM-Flint Environment, Health & Safety to alert them to the situation.

Additional ways to report wrong-doing, include contacting: University Compliance anonymously via website at <http://compliancehotline.umich.edu/> or by calling hotline at 866-990-0111.