Port City Christian Church

Children & Youth Program Consent

CHILD SAFE STATEMENT

Port City Christian Church is committed to the safety, wellbeing, participation and empowerment of all children and young people. We have zero tolerance for child abuse, neglect, bullying, discrimination, grooming, harassment or any behaviour that places a child at risk. All staff and volunteers are required to comply with our Child Safe Policy and Code of Conduct.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Consent Form:

Child – An individual under 18 years of age.

Child or Young Person – A child under 18 years of age participating in a Port City Christian Church program, activity or service.

Child Safety – The protection of children and young people from abuse, neglect, harm, exploitation, grooming, bullying, discrimination and other unsafe behaviour.

Child Safety Concern – Any information, observation, disclosure, allegation, incident or circumstance that raises a concern about the safety or wellbeing of a child or young person.

Supervision – The active and appropriate oversight of children and young people by authorised leaders to promote their safety and wellbeing.

Media – Photographs, video recordings, livestream recordings, digital images and other recorded or published content involving children or young people.

PROGRAM INVOLVEMENT

Our Participation Agreement applies to all children participating in Port City Christian Church Children's Ministry program. This Agreement explains the expectations and responsibilities of all Children whilst participating in Port City Christian Church's programs. This Agreement is to be explained and discussed with all Children before they commence in a program by their parent/guardian, so the child understands the behavioural expectations of the agreement.

All Children participating in Port City Christian Church's Children's programs agree;

- We will be respectful and kind to everyone and welcome new children joining the group
- We will join in and try out best
- We will follow leaders' directions and play by the rules
- We will stay where we can be seen by our leaders
- We will let our leader know if we feel unsafe, upset or unwell
- We will let our leader know if someone else is hurt

I, being the parent/guardian of the said child have discussed the participation agreement with my child and hereby give my consent that my child/ren may participate in any activities they choose over the course of Children's Ministry or Revolution Youth programs.

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

The behaviour management of a child whilst involved in our programs is the responsibility of the leader in charge and/or the Children's Ministry Coordinator. Serious behaviours; which may require action outside the program, such as suspensions, will be brought to the attention of the Children's Ministry Coordinator if required. A Children's Ministry Leader is required to respond appropriately rather than react negatively. Positive encouragement is always better than negative punishment. In the event that a Child does not follow the above policy/agreement or their behaviour is unacceptable then the following strategy will be implemented;

1. Address the child by name and ask them to change their behaviour in that situation, whilst always being quiet, firm and clear.
2. Parallel Positive - Compliment good behaviour rather than focusing on only bad behaviour.
3. Discuss the participation agreement and explain where they are not complying. Provide a choice for the child or young person to comply. Provide effective warning to include number of remaining opportunities to comply. A supervised cooling-off period or removal from an activity may be used where appropriate to assist a child to regulate their behaviour and ensure the safety and wellbeing of others.
4. If child behaviour continues to be unacceptable (or is deemed so serious as to pose a risk to themselves or others), parent/guardian will be notified and asked to remove the child or young person from the group and be notified of expectations on their return.

Physical punishment, verbal abuse, humiliation, intimidation, isolation, ridicule or any degrading treatment of children or young people is strictly prohibited.

COMPLAINT AND CHILD SAFETY REPORTING PROCESS

Any concerns regarding child safety, misconduct, inappropriate behaviour, bullying or breaches of child safety policies may be reported to the Children's Ministry Leader/ Youth Leader, Senior Pastor or Church Office. All concerns will be taken seriously and managed confidentially in accordance with the Port City CC Limited Safe Church Policy.

CONNECT CONSENT

High School Aged Children - Connect Contact

I consent to approved communication between authorised ministry leaders and my child through church-approved communication methods, including phone, SMS, email, group messaging platforms and online meeting platforms in accordance with Port City Christian Church Child Safety and Communication Policies. I understand that the connect leader will speak to me first before speaking to my child so that I am aware of who is talking with my child.

Primary School Aged Children - Paper Mail Contact

I, being the parent/guardian of the said child hereby give consent for my child to be contacted by mail by a Children's Ministry leader with communications such as birthday cards, get well soon cards and invitations to special events.

EXCURSIONS AND OFFSITE ACTIVITIES

High School Aged Children

Separate consent will be sought for camps, excursions, overnight events, water activities and other higher-risk activities where required.

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Port City Christian Church values and respects children of all abilities, backgrounds, cultures, genders and family circumstances and seeks to create an inclusive environment where every child feels safe and welcomed. Reasonable adjustments will be made, where practicable, to support the participation and inclusion of children with disability, additional needs or specific support requirements.

INFORMATION SHARING AND PRIVACY

Information may be shared with emergency services, medical professionals, government authorities or child protection agencies where required by law or where necessary to protect a child or young person.

MANDATORY REPORTING INFORMATION

Port City Christian Church staff and volunteers are required to report any concerns regarding the safety, welfare or wellbeing of a child or young person in accordance with applicable legislation and church policies.

MEDIA & PHOTOS

I, being the parent/guardian of the said child hereby give my consent for my child/ren to be captured in both photographs and video at Children's Ministry or Revolution Youth for use in Church publications, Church website, Social Media and Livestream recordings.

MEDICAL

I being parent/guardian of the said child understand that whilst every precaution will be taken to ensure the good welfare and protection of my child/ren, Port City Christian Church, its staff and volunteers acting on behalf are hereby released from any and all liability in the event of any accident or misfortune, damage or loss that may occur to the child and their property unless such injury results from a failure in the duty of care of Port City Christian Church, or any individual staff or voluntary leader.

I agree to notify Port City Christian Church of any changes to my child's medical conditions, allergies, medications, emergency contacts or other relevant health information.

In the case of an emergency, I hereby give permission to the First Aid Staff to ensure proper treatment for my child. I understand that every effort will be made to contact me before instituting such procedures. I agree to pay all such doctor, ambulance and hospital fees incurred on behalf of my child. I have provided any health information about my child that the First Aid Staff need to know.

PHYSICAL CONTACT AND APPROPRIATE BOUNDARIES

All leaders maintain appropriate professional boundaries with children and young people. Physical contact will only occur when appropriate, necessary and in the child's best interests.

POLICIES

All our policies can be accessed by contacting the Port City Church Office at 12 McCann Street, Gladstone Phone: 0456 247 934 or email: reception@portcitycc.org.au

PRIVACY

Port City Christian Church is committed to protecting the privacy of an individual's information. Our Privacy Policy covers how we collect, use, disclose, and store your information and is available at the Port City Christian Church Office. To participate in certain programs or activities, Port City Christian Church needs to collect some information from those who want to be involved with our church, enabling us to communicate with them and provide the requested service. To request access to your information, contact the Port City Christian Church Office.

SIGNOUT

Port City Christian Church is committed to providing appropriate supervision for children and young people while they are participating in Children's Ministry and Revolution Youth programs.

Children will remain under the supervision of authorised leaders until they are collected by a parent/guardian or authorised nominee, or until they are signed out in accordance with the permissions provided on their registration form.

Children under the age of 8 years must be collected by a parent/guardian or authorised nominee from the designated collection point and will not be permitted to leave the program unsupervised. An authorised nominee is a person nominated by the parent/guardian and authorised to collect the child from the program.

For children aged 8 years and over, parents/guardians may authorise their child to sign themselves in and out of the program. Where this permission has been provided, the child may leave the program independently at the approved time.

Port City Christian Church will take reasonable steps to ensure the safety and supervision of children while they are participating in church programs. However, once a child has been signed out, collected by a parent/guardian or authorised nominee, or has left the program in accordance with the permissions provided by their parent/guardian, responsibility for their supervision transfers to the parent/guardian.

If a child leaves the designated program area without authorisation or contrary to leader instructions, leaders will take reasonable and appropriate steps to locate the child, contact the parent/guardian and respond in accordance with the Church's Child Safety procedures.

TRANSPORT PERMISSION

I understand that children will not be transported by church leaders unless specific written permission has been provided by the parent/guardian and appropriate child safety procedures are followed.

VOLUNTEERS AND SCREENING

All Children's Ministry and Revolution Youth leaders are required to comply with Port City Christian Church Child Safety Policies and are appropriately screened, trained and authorised in accordance with relevant legislation and church requirements.

PROGRAM CONSENT

Consent for a child to participate in Port City Christian Church programs, activities, or services remains active and ongoing until the organisation receives a formal request for withdrawal in writing. Written withdrawal may be submitted by a parent, guardian, or authorised caregiver, and participation will continue uninterrupted until that written notice is received and acknowledged.