



souldancestudios.com

Compliance Statement Child Safe Policy

This policy was written to demonstrate the strong commitment of Soul Dance Studios to child safety and establishing and maintaining child safe and child friendly environments.

It complies with our obligations under the Children's Protection Act 1993, including:

- Section 8B – 8D – child safe environments and criminal history assessments for people working with children; and
- Section 11 – Mandatory reporting.

It also complies with the Child safe environments: Principles of good practice and Child safe environments: Standards for dealing with information obtained about the criminal history of employees and volunteers who work with children.

This policy applies to all people involved in the organisation, including employees (permanent and casual) and volunteers.

Commitment to child safety

All children who come to Soul Dance Studios have a right to feel and be safe. We are committed to the safety and well being of all children and young people accessing our services and the welfare of the children in our care will always be our first priority. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where all children are valued and feel safe.

Children's participation

Soul Dance Studios encourages and respects the views of children and young people who access our services. We listen to and act upon any concerns that children, young people or their families raise with us. We teach children what they can do if they feel unsafe. Children, young people and their families know their rights and how to access the complaints procedures available to them via our website.

Recruitment practices

Soul Dance Studios takes all reasonable steps to ensure that it engages the most suitable and appropriate people to work with children. Criminal history assessments are required for all teachers. Parents who volunteer require a Police Clearance or Criminal history assessment.

Support for employees and volunteers

Soul Dance Studios seeks to attract and retain the best employees and volunteers. We provide support so people feel valued, respected and fairly treated. All new employees undergo induction and receive a copy of our child safe policy and code of conduct to sign.

Reporting and responding to suspected child abuse and neglect

Soul Dance Studios will not tolerate incidents of child abuse. All employees and volunteers understand their obligation to notify the Director, Kate English then action a call to the Child Abuse Report Line on 13 14 78 as soon as practicable if they have a reasonable suspicion that a child has been, or is being, abused or neglected.

Anyone charged with, or under investigation for a serious criminal offence will be asked to remove themselves from our premises until the matter has been dealt with. Soul Dance Studios will work with the Child Abuse Helpline discuss the best individual approach for all parties involved.

We also ensure that employees have access to relevant information resources such as:

- Child safe environment: www.families.sa.gov.au/childsafe)
- Families SA reporting child abuse website: <http://www.dfc.sa.gov.au/pub/default.aspx?tabid=485>
- Free online SMART (Strategies for Managing Abuse Related Trauma) Learning package, developed by the Australian Childhood Foundation: www.childhood.org.au)

We ensure that support is also available for the employee making the report, particularly where an ongoing service is provided to the child, young person and their family.

Harassment and bullying

Soul Dance Studios opposes all forms of harassment and bullying. We take this issue seriously and encourage anyone who believes that they, or another person, has been harassed, or bullied to raise this issue with Kate English or management.

Communication

This policy is available for access 24/7 to everyone via our website.

We ask employees and volunteers (where appropriate) to sign a written statement indicating that they have read and will abide by our child-safe policy. We retain a copy of all signed statements.

CROSS REFERENCES:

United Nations www.unicef.org

Family Law Amendment (Child Protection Convention) Act 2002

www.my.lawlex.com.au

Family and Community Services Act 1972 (South Australia) www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/sa/consol_act/facsa1972313/

Children's Protection Act 1993 (South Australia)

www.legislation.sa.gov.au

Child Protection Review (Powers and Immunities) Act 2002 (South Australia)

www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/sa/consol_act/cpraia2002481/

Privacy Act

Freedom of Information Act 1991 (SA)

State Records Act 1997 (SA)

Listening and Surveillance Devices Act 1972 (SA)

Telecommunications (Interception) Act 1988 (SA)