

Appendix M: Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Compliance Forms and Popular Myths Regarding Abuse

Compliance Frequently asked Questions

Compliance relates to Equality and Diversity, Safeguarding of both children and vulnerable adults, and Health & Safety. All the policies relating to these topics can be found on the RIBI website in the ['Compliance'](#) section together with the 'Compliance Form' which covers all of the above three areas of compliance.

Various queries have been raised by Clubs and Districts and so there are below some Questions and Answers which you may find helpful.

Q. Where will I find the compliance documents on the RIBI website?

A. Documents and information can be found within the ['For Members'](#) area on the [RIBI website](#). Once you have logged in to the Members area, you will find the ['Compliance'](#) section under *'Club and District Support'*.

Q. What should Clubs and Districts be doing with this documentation?

A. All Clubs and Districts should on an annual basis read the policies, which have been shortened, and then sign the one Compliance Form.

Q. Is it necessary to sign a Compliance Form for each policy?

A. No. The new Compliance Form covers all the policies.

Q. What should Clubs do with the signed Compliance Form?

A. Clubs should send a copy of their Compliance Form to their District Secretary who will retain the forms and keep a log of those Clubs in their District that have complied each year.

Q. What should Districts do with their own signed Compliance Form?

A. Districts should send their own Compliance Forms to the Secretariat Office in Alcester (for the attention of Tina Howard, Head of Club & District Support at email: cds@ribi.org) who will keep a log of Districts that have complied each year.

Q. How long should Districts keep the signed Club Compliance Forms?

A. District Secretaries only need to keep the signed Compliance Forms for the current Rotary year. The electronic annual log of forms returned should be perpetual, should the need arise to refer to any particular year in the future.

Q. Is there a time limit to sign the Compliance Form?

A. No, but the sooner the form is signed in each Rotary Year the better.

Q. What happens if a Club or District fails to, or refuses to, sign the Compliance Form?

A. If a claim arises against the Club or District, they could find themselves exposed without insurance cover. The policies are only stating the law and there should be no reason why they should not be signed.

Q. Is it necessary to sign the Compliance Form every Rotary Year?

A. Yes, as Club and District officers change every year and it is good practise to remind you.

Popular Myths

Children are mostly abused by strangers

False: Most children are abused by adults whom they know and trust.

It is only men who sexually abuse children

False: Although the overwhelming majority of child abusers are male, in around 5% to 10% of cases, the abuse is by a woman.

Disabled children are less likely to be victims of abuse

False: Disabled children are more vulnerable to abuse. They are more dependent on intimate care and sometimes less able to tell anyone or run away from abusive situations.

If social services are involved, children are usually removed from their homes

False: Social services will only remove children when there is a risk of significant harm and if the child is in real danger of further abuse. Social services are there to work in partnership with parents or carers, and offer as much support as possible.

Child abusers have deprived backgrounds and are of below average intelligence

False: Abusers come from a wide range of social, professional and intellectual backgrounds and may well be well liked and respected members of society.

Children are safe in groups

False: This is not always true: young children have, for example, been sexually assaulted in nursery school whilst other adults and children were present.

Children often lie about abuse

False: Children rarely lie about abuse. Very often they have been threatened that something bad will happen if they tell, which makes it vital that children are listened to and taken seriously.

Professional organisations need not worry about abuse

False: All organisations need to have policies and procedures in place to avoid infiltration by abusers.

(Information taken from NSPCC and Government sources)