

Compliance Chats Podcast
Topic: Promoting the Protection of Minors

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| Podcast Title: | Promoting the Protection of Minors | Podcast Date: | 2/9/2017 |
| Host: | Laurie Neal | Guest Speaker(s): | Omar Andujar |
| Purpose | In this interview with Omar Andujar, listeners will learn about the University of Connecticut's Minor Protection Program. | | |
| About Guest Speaker | Omar Andujar works in the Office of Audit, Compliance, and Ethics and serves as UConn's Minor Protection Coordinator. He is responsible for the development, implementation, and evaluation of University-wide Protection of Minors efforts. Omar is a Certified Compliance and Ethics Professional (CCEP). His educational background includes a B.B.A. in Supervisory Management, and a M.B.A. in Corporate Innovations. | | |

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW

INTRO:

LAURIE: Hello and welcome back to Compliance Chats a new podcast series intended to keep Faculty and Staff up-to-date on various compliance matters.

I am Laurie Neal with OACE, and in today's podcast, I am going to be chatting with my colleague Omar Andujar about UConn's Minor Protection Program.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:

LAURIE: Omar, in your current role, you are responsible for managing the University's Minor Protection Program. What would you say is the scope of that program?

OMAR: The program is intended to support the University's long standing commitment to promoting the protection of minors who participate in university activities. The overall scope of UConn's MPP revolves around three central themes and those are: 1) training and education, 2) registration and tracking, and 3) compliance.

LAURIE: It sounds like a very comprehensive program. Let's take a quick pause to make sure we are all on the same page regarding exactly what is a "child or minor."

OMAR: Yes, I think that makes perfect sense. In Connecticut, the term "child or minor" refers to any person under the age of 18.

LAURIE: Thanks for clarifying that piece. You mentioned there is a Protection of Minors and Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect Policy. Can you tell me a little bit about that?

OMAR: Absolutely. The Protection of Minors and Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect Policy has two major objectives. First, it sets the expectation for reporting by informing members of the University community of their obligation to report known or suspected child abuse or neglect.

LAURIE: Omar, what do you mean by obligation to report child abuse or neglect?

OMAR: According to Connecticut state law, virtually all University employees are mandated reporters of child abuse or neglect, and are required to report or cause a report to be made to law enforcement and/or the Department of Children and Families (DCF) if they have reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child has been the victim of child abuse or neglect.

Such reports must be made in a promptly manner. In fact, per state law verbal reports must be made as soon as possible, but no later than 12 hours, and follow-up written reports must be made within 48 hours of making a verbal report.

Remember, if you witness child abuse or if there is an imminent or ongoing threat to an individual or the community, immediately call 9-1-1. University employees must also comply with other University policies that impose additional reporting obligations, such as the Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Related Interpersonal Violence.

LAURIE: So, in addition to setting the expectation for reporting child abuse or neglect, what is the other major objective of the Policy?

OMAR: The second major objective of the Policy is to establish consistent standards for University activities involving minors. Such standards include, but are not limited to, centrally registering activities with the minor protection program, training and background screening requirements for those supervising minors, and adopting and complying with University standards for activities involving minors

A more comprehensive description of these standards is include in the Policy and the accompanying procedures.

LAURIE: What type of activities are covered by this policy?

OMAR: Currently, these standards apply to “*University Sponsored Activities Involving Minors*” as defined in the Policy. Obvious examples of these types of activities include youth camps, clinics, or conferences, but they can also include other types of activities, such as pre-college programs, educational or mentoring programs, music lessons, non-student minors in labs, etc.

LAURIE: At times, outside entities request to use our facilities to conduct youth activities. Would those types of activities be covered by the Policy?

OMAR: Non-University entities wishing to use or lease University property to operate youth related activities must execute a Facility Use Agreement that includes specific terms and conditions applicable to activities involving minors. To learn more about expectations for Non-University activities involving minors, please visit the minor protection program website.

LAURIE: Great! It looks like we are down to the wire, so can you tell our listeners where they can learn more about these efforts?

OMAR: Sure. As I mentioned, additional information can be found on our website, which is minorprotection.uconn.edu. There, you can find the policy and procedures we discussed. You can also access the registration application, learn more about staff training and background screening requirements, as well as information on reporting child abuse or neglect. There is also a library of helpful resources, such as planning checklists, guides, templates, and tools for activities involving minors.

LAURIE: Excellent! Well, that’s our time for today’s podcast...

RESOURCES MENTIONED BY TODAY’S SPEAKER:

University of Connecticut
Office of Audit, Compliance and Ethics

Protection of Minors and Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect Policy
- <http://policy.uconn.edu/2016/03/29/protection-of-minors-and-reporting-of-child-abuse-and-neglect-policy/>

Minor Protection Program Website - <http://minorprotection.uconn.edu/>

DCF's Report of Suspected Abuse Form (DCF-136 Form) - http://www.ct.gov/dcf/lib/dcf/policy/forms/DCF-136_Rev_05_2015.pdf

Planning Checklist for University Activities - <http://minorprotection.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1652/2016/03/Planning-Checklist.pdf>

Guidance for Non-University Activities - <http://minorprotection.uconn.edu/non-university-activities/>

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