

GRAND ASSEMBLY OF TEXAS
INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE RAINBOW FOR GIRLS



YOUTH PROTECTION SUMMARY STATEMENT

Revised 2018

The Grand Assembly of Texas, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls is committed to ensuring the safety of our members by establishing a Youth Protection policy stating that child maltreatment in all its forms is unacceptable and will not, under any circumstances, be condoned within our organization. It is our responsibility to provide a safe environment for all youth involved in our Rainbow organization. We have the utmost concern for the safety and welfare of the young people put into our care during their participation in Rainbow activities. The adult leadership has set a goal of doing everything within our power to ensure an environment of safety and encouragement, where our youth can develop skills and confidence in the areas of leadership and citizenship while also enjoying themselves and having fun. The Supreme Youth Protection Policy and Program, pages 4-6, includes a Code of Conduct statement that each Advisor and volunteer is required to read and sign each year. Please see I.O.R.G. Youth Protection Position Statement and Code of Conduct, revised 2014, on the Texas website (www.txiorg.org).

To help meet this goal, an annual registration process has been put in place for all persons serving on an Advisory Board or as an approved volunteer within the Grand Assembly of Texas, I.O.R.G. This annual registration process is consistent with guidance provided by Supreme Assembly, I.O.R.G. The three forms used to complete the annual registration process, including a background check completed every four years, can be found on the Texas website (www.txiorg.org) under **Resources/Forms/Adult Worker Forms**. In addition, this Grand Jurisdiction is charged with:

- (1) Providing yearly Youth Protection training for all adult workers. Details can be found on the Texas website (www.txiorg.org), on pages 17-18 of the Supreme Youth Protection Policy and Program, revised 2014.
- (2) Requiring all assemblies within this Grand Jurisdiction to provide at least one program each year for members that focuses on the areas of child maltreatment listed in the Supreme Youth Protection Policy and Program. These programs may be combined with another assembly or group of assemblies, as long as an informational program is held each year. It should be a comprehensive program, preferably led by professionals in the field. A Youth Protection Program is presented each year at Grand Assembly and may be used to satisfy this requirement. A list of available Training Modules and other External Resources can be found on (Pgs. 40-41) of the Youth Protection Policy and Program on the Texas website (www.txiorg.org).
- (3) Reporting all annual training on forms provided on the Texas website (www.txiorg.org) under the **Youth Protection Section**.

We believe that any youth protection policy and program must always be recognized as an evolving process and always open to review and growth. We live in challenging times and, as volunteers, we are responsible for shaping the lives of our Rainbow girls. Those in leadership positions in Rainbow believe that we must demonstrate our commitment to improve the protection of our nation's most valuable resource- its youth. We are dedicated to meeting this challenge by regularly evaluating our programs and continually providing appropriate training and updated information as a permanent part of our Rainbow Organization's operation.