

## **Guidelines for Children and Vulnerable Adults Dancing with the Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society**

*The following guidelines for children attending branch classes and events sponsored by the Boston Branch of the RSCDS are meant to work in conjunction with the **Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy and Practice Guidelines** from Headquarters, available at [www.rscds.org/article/legal-administrative](http://www.rscds.org/article/legal-administrative). For purposes of these guidelines, a child is defined as anyone under the age of majority in the state where the event is held (18 for all New England states and New York). A person may be considered a vulnerable adult if they are 18 years or over and have either a learning or physical disability, a physical or mental illness or drug/alcohol addiction, or a reduction in physical or mental capacity which leads to reduced ability to protect themselves from assault, abuse, or neglect.*

In order to promote a safe dance environment:

1. Teachers and event chairs accepting children and vulnerable adults into Boston Branch classes and events must familiarize themselves with this document and the *Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy and Practice Guidelines* from Headquarters.
2. The branch shall designate a Youth Coordinator: a member of the Executive Committee to whom incidents involving children and vulnerable adults can be reported. The Youth Coordinator will take action as necessary.
3. Children attending branch classes or events must be accompanied by a parent or a designated guardian.
4. Teachers and event chairs should follow the Good Practice Guidelines laid out in the *Policy and Practice Guidelines* from HQ. In part, they should:
  - a. Always work in an open environment with at least one other adult present (avoid one-to-one or unobservable situations).
  - b. Deal immediately with abusive behaviour (e.g., bullying, ridiculing or taunting).
  - c. Obtain parental/guardian permission for any photos taken.
  - d. Check for any medical conditions (e.g., asthma) prior to the class.
  - e. Ensure there is a fully maintained first aid box on site. (If necessary, teachers and event chairs can apply to the Executive Committee for funding for first aid boxes.)

**FOR ALL DANCERS:** *If you suspect a vulnerable person is being abused emotionally, physically or sexually, you should report the matter to the Branch Youth Coordinator; alternatively the class teacher, event chair, or Branch Secretary. If the incident is deemed to be beyond their scope of authority, then call the Police and/or Child Protective Services and report the incident, and at the same time inform the Executive Committee in executive session. Do not discuss the matter with anyone other than those who need to know—maintain confidentiality at all times.*