

MMIA RISK MANAGEMENT BULLETIN

Child Abuse Prevention Program

To: MMIA Member-Owners
From: MMIA
Date: April 7, 2022
RE: Child Abuse Prevention Program

Dear Member-Owners,

Child abuse is a difficult topic to hear about, whether on the news, in social media, or in our circle of family and friends. Feelings of confusion, anger, frustration, and pain are a small representation of the tragedies the victims have experienced.

What's the Risk?

Some might ask "What's the risk to our small-town community? Doesn't this just happen in the big metropolitan cities of America?" As illustrated in the real-world examples highlighted below, that is not the case. Use the links below to connect to articles for real world examples.

- [Nevada](#)
- [Kentucky](#)
- [Montana](#)
- [California](#)
- [California](#) (cont.)

The risk is everywhere. More specifically, if you have any of the following types of programs in your municipality, the risk is very real. The risk is greater if you have additional programs.

- Sports Leagues
- Daycare
- Field Trips
- Municipal Swimming Pool
- After School Programs
- School Resource Officer
- Summer Camps
- Libraries
- Parks & Recreation Programs



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Who is at Risk?

- The risk of not preventing a **negative, life-altering, incident** to a child and their family.
- Threat to a child by **Adult to Youth** Interaction.
- Threat to a child by **Youth to Youth** Interactions.
- False allegations towards employees, volunteers, or other program participants.
- Failure to report incidents to the Department of Public Health & Human Services, includes both incidents occurring through municipal operations and incidents outside municipal operations but reported to municipal staff
- Every Municipality that provides services to children.

What's at Risk?

- Financial risk to your municipality.
- Reputational risk to your municipality, the employees, and anyone associated with a negative experience from an incident or a court ruling.

Managing the Risk

MMIA has partnered with Praesidium Inc., a nationally recognized consultant in child abuse prevention. MMIA has purchased this resource to assist Member-Owners in preventing a child abuse event. There are no costs or fees to sign up or use the comprehensive on-line format.

The Praesidium Inc. process offers:

- A comprehensive and confidential method to analyze your operational strengths and weaknesses in preventing child abuse.
- Provides the solutions to create a plan or compliment an existing plan for your operation on subjects such as:
 - Policies
 - Training
 - Hiring
 - Monitoring and Supervision
 - Administrative Practices.

The Praesidium process can apply to small municipalities with just a municipal swimming pool program to a large municipality with a dozen programs for youth.

Why not take advantage of a free opportunity to assess and increase the ability to manage these risks? The ability to offer a variety of youth programs is an asset to our youth's social and educational growth. Let us work together to foster safe and rewarding municipal youth programs.

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Final Thoughts

To date, MMIA has not received a claim for child abuse. Let's do all that we can to control the risk and prevent an incident. The Praesidium process takes a bit of dedication but is not difficult to accomplish.

When considering the benefit of:

- Protecting a child's life who is in your care, and
- Protecting the employees hired to manage your programs, and
- Protecting the volunteers contributing their experience and time to the community, and
- Protecting the municipality's reputation and financial resources,



there are many good reasons to allocate time and resources to this Program. Having a safe environment for children could create a positive impact on the municipality's ability to attract the best candidates for full time, part time, seasonal, and volunteer positions.

It won't be long before spring and summer youth program plans begin. Now is the time to become a part of a unique opportunity to protect vulnerable children in your community and help prevent a negative life-altering event from occurring. Even if you have an existing program in place, MMIA encourages you to explore this resource to assist with updates to program practices and provide educational growth for program managers. The lessons learned in this process can also be applied to protecting vulnerable seniors in your municipal programs.

For more information, acquiring access credentials to Praesidium Inc. resources, or assistance with completing the assessment process, please contact:

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Or

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Remember... it's your money!!

**Learn about the MMIA Members-Owners' Self-Funded Pool (your money)
at "[Know where your dough goes.](#)"**