

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING STANDARDS OF CARE FOR CITY OF ABILENE YOUTH PROGRAMS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; AND CALL A PUBLIC HEARING.

WHEREAS, the City of Abilene, through the Division of Recreation, provides youth programs that contribute to the overall well being of youth and families of the City of Abilene; and

WHEREAS, these youth programs are presently held at the Recreation Centers and designated school sites; and

WHEREAS, the 74th Legislature enacted Section 42.04 (b)(14) of the Texas Human Resources Code, which would exempt youth programs operated by a municipality from child-care state licensing requirements; and

WHEREAS, Section 42.04 (b)(14) of the Texas Human Resources Code provides that, in order for municipal youth programs to be exempted from state licensing requirements, the governing body of the municipality must annually adopt standards of care by ordinance after a public hearing; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was called to be held on December 16, 1999; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Recreation for the City of Abilene recommends that the Standards of Care as set forth in Attachment "A" be adopted by the City of Abilene, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS:

- Section 1.** That all of the recitals and preambles hereinabove stated are found to be true and correct and are incorporated herein and made a part of this ordinance.
- Section 2.** That the Youth Programs' Standards of Care for the City of Abilene, as detailed in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein for all purposes, is hereby approved and adopted.
- Section 3.** That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of the ordinance are hereby repealed.
- Section 4.** That, if any provision of this ordinance will be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of such ordinance will continue in full force and effect, the same as if such invalid or unconstitutional provision had never been a part hereof.
- Section 5.** That it is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this ordinance is passed is open to the public as required by law and that public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given as required.

PASSED ON FIRST READING this 9 day of December, A.D. 1999.

A notice of the time and place, where and when said ordinance would be given a public hearing and considered for final passage, was published in the Abilene Reporter-News, a daily newspaper of general circulation in the City of Abilene, said publication being on the 6th day of December, 1999, to permit the public to be heard prior to final consideration of this ordinance.

PASSED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING this 16 day of December, A.D. 1999.

ATTEST:


CITY SECRETARY


MAYOR

APPROVED:


CITY ATTORNEY

**ABILENE YOUTH PROGRAMS'
STANDARDS OF CARE**

Exhibit A

The following Standards of Care have been adopted pursuant to Texas Human Resources Code Section 42.041(14). The Standards of Care are the minimum standards by which the City of Abilene's Recreation Division will operate the City's Youth Programs.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

1. Organization

- A. The governing body of the City of Abilene's Youth Programs is the Abilene City Council.
- B. Implementation of the Youth Program's Standards of Care is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Recreation.
- C. Youth Programs ("Program") to which these Standards apply are the programs held at the City Recreation Centers and designated school sites currently operated by the City of Abilene. Other programs may be subsequently designated by the City of Abilene.
- D. Each Youth Program site will have a current copy of the Standards of Care available for public and staff review.
- E. Parents of participants will be provided a current copy of the Standards of Care during the registration process. Parents of participants will be informed that the City of Abilene's Youth Programs are not licensed by the State.
- F. Criminal background checks will be conducted on prospective Youth Program employees. If results of the criminal checks indicate that an applicant has been arrested for any of the following offenses, he or she may not be considered for employment:
 - (1) a felony or a misdemeanor classified as an offense against a person;
 - (2) a felony or misdemeanor classified as public indecency;
 - (3) a felony or misdemeanor violation of any law intended to control the possession or distribution of any controlled substance or any violation of the City Policy;
 - (4) any offense involving moral turpitude;
 - (5) any offense that would potentially put the City of Abilene or participants of the Program at risk.

2. Definitions

- A. City: City of Abilene.
- B. City Council: City Council of the City of Abilene.

- C. Department: Community Services Department of the City of Abilene.
- D. Division: Recreation Services Division of the City of Abilene.
- E. Youth Programs or Program: City of Abilene's Youth Programs held at the City's Recreation Centers and designated school sites currently operated by the City of Abilene. Other programs may be subsequently designated by the City of Abilene. These programs are not child-care facilities.
- F. Director: City of Abilene Director of Community Services Department or designee.
- G. Superintendent: City of Abilene Superintendent of Recreation Services or his or her designee.
- H. Program Manual: A notebook of policies, procedures, required forms, and organizational and programming information relevant to City of Abilene's Youth Programs.
- I. Center Coordinator: City of Abilene's Recreation Division full-time Programmer who has been assigned administrative responsibility for a Center's Youth Program.
- J. Specialist or Recreation Leader (Leader): Any City of Abilene's Recreation Division employee (full-time or part-time) who has been assigned responsibility to implement the City's Youth Programs.
- K. Program Site: Any area or facility where Abilene's Youth Programs are held.
- L. Participant: A youth whose parent has completed all required registration procedures and who has been determined to be eligible for Abilene's Youth Program.
- M. Parent(s): A parent or guardian who has legal custody and authority to enroll a child in Abilene's Youth Programs.
- N. Employee: Someone who has been hired to work for the City of Abilene and has been assigned responsibility for managing, administering, or implementing some portion of Abilene's Youth Programs.

3. Inspections/Monitoring/Enforcement

- A. A biannual inspection report will be initiated by the Coordinator of each Program to confirm adherence to the Standards of Care.
 - (1) Inspection reports will be sent to the Director for review and kept on record for at least two years.
 - (2) The Director will review the report and establish deadlines and criteria for compliance with the Standards of Care.
- B. The Superintendent will make visual inspections of the facilities, based on the following schedule; a certified leisure professional that is not associated with the City of Abilene will assist on one of the following inspections.

- (1) a pre-summer check in May of each year; and
- (2) a winter check in January of each year.

- C. Complaints regarding enforcement of the Standards of Care will be directed to the Coordinator. The Coordinator will be responsible for taking the necessary steps to resolve the problems. Complaints regarding enforcement of the Standards of Care and their resolution will be recorded by the Coordinator. Serious complaints regarding enforcement of the Standards of Care will be addressed by the Superintendent, and the complaint and the resolution will be noted.
- D. The Director will provide an annual report to the City Council on the overall status of the Youth Programs and their operation relative to compliance with the adopted Standards of Care.

4. Enrollment

- A. Before a child may be enrolled, a parent must sign registration forms that contain:
 - (1) the name, address, and home telephone number of the child;
 - (2) the name and address of parents and telephone numbers during program hours;
 - (3) the names and telephone numbers of people to whom the child may be released;
 - (4) a statement of the child's special needs;
 - (5) proof of residency, when appropriate; and
 - (6) a liability waiver which also includes permission for field trips and emergency medical authorization.

5. Suspected Abuse

Program employees will report suspected child abuse in accordance with the Texas Family Code.

STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES AND TRAINING

6. Center Coordinators

- A. Coordinators will be full-time, professional employees of the City of Abilene's Recreation Division and will be required to have all Program Leader qualifications as outlined in Section 7 of this document.
- B. Coordinators must meet the minimum education/experience requirements for employment with the City of Abilene to plan and implement recreation activities.
- C. Coordinators must be able to pass a background investigation, including testing for illegal substances.
- D. Coordinators must successfully complete a course in first-aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) offered by American Red Cross.
- E. Coordinators are responsible for administering the Programs' daily operations in compliance with the Adopted Standards of Care.

- F. Coordinators are responsible for hiring, supervising, and evaluating Leaders.
- G. Coordinators are responsible for planning, implementing, and evaluating programs.

Recreation Specialist or Recreation Leaders

- A. Leaders may be full-time, part-time, or temporary employees of the Recreation Division.
- B. Leaders should be able to consistently exhibit competency, good judgment, and self-control when working with children.
- C. Leaders must relate to children with courtesy, respect, tolerance, and patience.
- D. Leaders must have successfully completed a course in first-aid and CPR offered by American Red Cross.
- E. Specialist and Recreation Leaders must pass a background investigation, including testing for illegal substances.
- F. Leaders will be responsible for providing participants with an environment in which they can feel safe, enjoy wholesome recreation activities, and can participate in appropriate social opportunities with their peers.
- G. Leaders will be responsible for understanding and following all City, Departmental, Division, and Program standards, policies, and procedures that apply to Abilene's Youth Programs.
- H. Leaders will ensure that participants are released only to a parent or an adult designated by the parent.
- I. A Specialist or Leader must be with participants at all times while they are participating in the Program.

8. Training/Orientation

- A. The Division is responsible for providing training and orientation to Program employees in working with children and for specific job responsibilities. Coordinators will provide each Leader with a Program manual specific to each Youth Program.
- B. Program employees must be competent with the Standards of Care for Youth Program operation as adopted.
- C. Program employees must be competent with the Program's policies, including discipline, guidance, and release of participants as outlined in the Program Manual.
- D. Program employees will be trained in appropriate procedures to handle emergencies.

- E. Program employees will be trained in areas including City, Departmental, Division and Program policies and procedures; provision of recreation activities; safety issues; and organization.

OPERATIONS

9. Staff-Participant Ratio

- A. Abilene's Youth Programs, the minimum employee to participant ratio will be 1 to 20 for participants from age 6-13.
- B. Each participant should have a Program employee who is responsible for him or her and who is aware of details of the participant's habits, interests, and any special needs as identified by the participant's parent during the registration process.

10. Notification

- A. Parents must be notified immediately when Program employees are aware of the following:
 - (1) Participant is injured; or
 - (2) Participant has a sign or symptom requiring exclusion from the site (eg.; communicable disease, fever, or illness).
- B. All parents must be notified if there is an outbreak of any communicable disease that is reportable to the State Department of Health.

11. Discipline

- A. Program employees will implement discipline and guidance in a consistent manner, based on the best interests of Program participants.
- B. There will be no cruel or harsh punishment or treatment.
- C. Program employees may use brief, supervised separation from the group if necessary.
- D. As necessary, Program employees will initiate discipline reports to the parents of participants. Parents will be asked to sign participant discipline reports to indicate they have been advised about a specific problem or incident.
- E. A sufficient number and/or severe nature of discipline reports as detailed in the Program manual may result in a participant being suspended from the Program.
- F. In instances where there is a danger to other participants or staff, offending participants will be removed from the Program site as soon as possible.

12. Programming

- A. Program employees will provide activities for each group according to the participants' ages, interests, and abilities. The activities will be appropriate to participants' health, safety, and well-being. The activities also will be flexible and designed to promote the participants' emotional, social, and mental growth.
- B. Program employees will provide indoor and outdoor time periods to include:
 - (1) alternating active and passive activities;
 - (2) opportunity for individual and group activities; and
 - (3) outdoor time each day that weather permits.
- C. Program employees will be attentive and considerate of the participants' safety on field trips and during any transportation provided by the Program.
 - (1) During trips, Program employees supervising participants should have immediate access to emergency medical forms and emergency contact information for each participant.
 - (2) Program employees should have transportation cards of the participants in the group and must check the roll frequently.
 - (3) Program employees should have first-aid supplies and a guide to first-aid and emergency care available on field trips.
 - (4) Notice of any field trips will be displayed at a prominent place at each site.

13. Communication

- A. Each site will have access to a telephone for use in contacting the Recreation Center or making emergency calls.
- B. The Coordinator will post the following telephone numbers adjacent to a telephone accessible to all Program employees at each site:
 - (1) Ambulance or emergency medical services.
 - (2) Abilene Police Department.
 - (3) Abilene Fire Department.
 - (4) Poison control.
 - (5) The telephone number for the site itself.
 - (6) Numbers at which parents may be reached.

14. Transportation

- A. First-aid supplies and a first-aid and an emergency care guide should be available in all Program vehicles that transport children.
- B. All Program vehicles used for transporting participants must have available a 6-BC portable fire

extinguisher which will be installed in the passenger compartment of the vehicle and which must be accessible to the adult occupants.

- C. Transportation cards with the names and telephone numbers of participants parents and physicians should be available in all Program vehicles that transport participants.

FACILITY STANDARDS

15. Safety

- A. Program employees will inspect Youth Program sites daily to detect sanitation and safety concerns that might affect the health and safety of the participants. A weekly inspection report will be completed by the Program staff and kept on file by the Recreation Supervisor.
- B. Buildings, grounds, and equipment on the Program site will be inspected, cleaned, repaired, and maintained to protect the health of the participants.
- C. Program equipment and supplies should be safe for the participants' use.
- D. Program employees should have first aid supplies available at each site, during transportation and for the duration of any off-site activity.
- E. Program air conditioners, electric fans, and heaters should be mounted out of participants reach or have safeguards that keep participants from being injured.
- F. Program employees should have first-aid supplies readily available to staff in a designated location. Program employees should have an immediately accessible guide to first aid and emergency care.

16. Fire

- A. In case of fire, danger of fire, explosion, or other emergency, Program employees' first priority is to evacuate the participants to a designated safe area.
- B. The Program site will have an annual fire inspection by the City Fire Marshall, and the resulting report will detail any safety concerns observed. The report will be forwarded to the Director who will review and establish deadlines and criteria for compliance. Information from this report will be included in the Director's annual report to the Council.
- C. Each Program site must have at least one fire extinguisher approved by the Fire Marshall readily available to all Program employees. The fire extinguisher is to be inspected monthly by the Program Coordinator, and a monthly report will be forwarded to the Coordinator's supervisor who will keep the report on file for a minimum of two years. All Youth Program staff members will be trained in the proper use of fire extinguishers.

17. Health

A. Illness or Injury

- (1) A participant who is considered to be a health or safety concern to other participants or staff will not be admitted to the Program.
- (2) Illnesses and injuries will be handled in a manner to protect the health of all participants and employees.
- (3) Program employees will follow plans to provide emergency care for injured participants or for participants with symptoms of an acute illness as specified in the Program manual.
- (4) Program employees will follow the recommendation of the Texas Department of Health concerning the admission or readmission of any participant after a communicable disease.

B. Program employees will administer medication only if:

- (1) A parent completes and sign a medication form that provides authorization for staff to dispense medication with details as to time and dosages. The form will include a "hold harmless" clause to protect the City.
- (2) Prescription medications are in the original containers labeled with the child's name, a date, directions, and the physician's name. Program staff members will administer the medication only as stated on the label. Program staff will not administer medication after the expiration date.
- (3) Nonprescription medications are labeled with the child's name and the date the medication was brought to the Program. Nonprescription medication must be in the original container. The Program staff will administer it only according to label directions.
- (4) Medications dispensed will be limited to routine oral ingestion not requiring special knowledge or skills on the part of Program employees. No injections will be administered by the Program employees.
- (5) Program employees must ensure medications are inaccessible to participants or, if it is necessary to keep medications in the refrigerator (when available), medications will be kept separate from food.

C. Toilet Facilities

- (1) The Program site will have inside toilets located and equipped so children can use them independently and Program staff can supervise as needed.
- (2) There must be at least one flush toilet for every 30 children. Urinals may be counted in the ratio of toilets to children but must not exceed 50% of the total number of toilets.
- (3) An appropriate and adequate number of lavatories will be provided.

D. Sanitation

- (1) The Program site must have adequate light, ventilation, and heat.
- (2) The Program must have an adequate supply of water, meeting the standards of the Texas Department of Health for drinking water, and ensure that it will be supplied to the participants in a safe and sanitary manner.

(3) Program employees must see that garbage is removed from sites daily.

E. The Program site will have an annual health inspection by the Health Department, and the resulting report will detail any health concerns observed. The report will be forwarded to the Director who will review and establish deadlines and criteria for compliance. Information from this report will be included in the Director's annual report to the Council.