



SMUSM

Office of the President

June 15, 2012

TO: SMU Faculty and Staff

FROM: R. Gerald Turner, President

SUBJECT: SMU Program for the Protection of Minors

As we welcome students and visitors of all ages to our campuses this summer and throughout the year, I would like to remind all staff and faculty of the University's commitment to promoting a secure and healthy environment.

With particular regard to the safety of the many minor children (under age 18) who visit our campuses and attend other SMU-sponsored activities off our campuses, I urge you to familiarize yourself with the mandate under Texas law to immediately report any suspected child abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities. You can learn more at the SMU Office of Legal Affairs website:

<http://www.smu.edu/ola/BriefingPapers/DutyToReportChildAbuse>.

As of June 1, 2012, an amendment to the Texas Education Code requires every employee who works at a program or camp with minor children to successfully complete sexual abuse prevention training approved by the state of Texas.

The SMU program for the Protection of Minors will be implemented in two phases. Initially, all SMU faculty and staff who are directly involved with program coordination or supervision, or who have direct contact with minors, as well as to all personnel of contract agencies involved with camps and programs on and off of our campuses are required to complete an approved training program on sexual abuse and child molestation no later than the first five days of the beginning of the camp or program. The second phase will begin this fall and will include customized training for all other University employees to be conducted during the 2012-13 academic year.

In order to help you meet this new training requirement, SMU has partnered with the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center (DCAC), a nationally recognized nonprofit agency that works with Dallas County law enforcement and health officials. DCAC offers free, online training and a mandatory test approved by the Texas Department of State Health Services. If you have been identified as someone who is required to complete this training, you will receive further instructions from the SMU Department of Human Resources and the Office of Risk Management. If you are not immediately contacted and believe you should obtain this training please contact The Department of Human Resources at (214)768-3311 or email at hadmin@smu.edu.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all faculty and staff of SMU's "See Something, Say Something" initiative, which calls upon all of us to be aware of our surroundings and to report suspicious or illegal behavior. Reports can be made to the SMU Police at (214)768-3333 or anonymously through the SMU TIPS line at (214)768-2TIP (2847). In case of emergency, always dial 911. Learn more about the University's emergency preparedness efforts at <http://www.smu.edu/emergency>.

Thank you for the many ways you support SMU students and welcome visitors to our beautiful campuses. I wish each of you a safe, productive summer.