



Introducing The Seal of Protection

The Problem:

There are **NO NATIONAL STANDARDS** for **YOUTH SERVING ORGANIZATIONS** in the **CAYMAN ISLANDS**. This means that our children and young people are vulnerable to those who wish to harm them because perpetrators thrive in environments that lack awareness, prevention knowledge, and policies, practices and procedures geared at keeping youth safe.

How prevalent is child sexual abuse?

US statistics indicate that 1 in 10 children will be sexually abused by their 18th birthday. While staggering, this is an improvement over the previous statistic of 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys being sexually abused by their 18th birthday. The reason for the drop in US numbers is due to targeted and consistent prevention education and a more concerted national effort towards safeguarding of youth. **When Darkness to Light's "Stewards of Children" child sexual abuse prevention training first came to Cayman in the mid 2000s, information that was compiled at the time put Cayman statistics closer to 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 5 boys being sexually abused by age 18. Unlike the US, however, Cayman has not had such consistent and widespread prevention education since that time, so our numbers have not had such change.**

What is the Seal of Protection (SoP)?

The Seal of Protection is a multi-agency grassroots effort to establish minimum standards for all youth serving organizations in the Cayman Islands. The aim is to target parents and guardians as **CONSUMERS** and to highlight those organizations that are doing more for child safety by giving them an identifier. *The Seal of Protection is not a guarantee or endorsement of services: it is a recognition that the facility that carries it takes child protection seriously and has taken the necessary steps to comply with basic standards for child protection and safety.*

Who gets the Seal of Protection?

The Seal of Protection will be issued annually to any organization that has implemented all of the following minimum standards in line with international best practices:

- criminal history records/ background checks for all personnel (including volunteers)
- written policies (safe environment, code of conduct and mandatory reporting) in line with international best practices
- documented screening and hiring practices in line with best practices (including reference checks)
- mandatory Darkness to Light training for all personnel (including volunteers)
- a minimum of 50% of all staff trained in first aid/cpr/aed
- after first year: annual staff training/update as provided by the PSH working group

Help us build momentum and make Cayman safer for all youth!

Ask your service provider about the Seal of Protection! For more information email deputy@redcross.org.ky

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 CaymanIslandsRedCross
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