



M'Lop Tapang (MT) Media and Visitor Guidelines

2016



Thank you for respecting our Media and Visitor Guidelines.

These guidelines have been designed to provide information and guidance to Media and other external visitors to MT. Please note that donors and partners that have current, official signed agreement with MT are not obliged to sign this document but they will be accompanied at all times.

The purpose of these guidelines is:

- To protect the beneficiaries of M'Lop Tapang (children and adults)
- To maintain client confidentiality
- To maintain the best interest of the child / beneficiary at all times
- To prevent any form of exploitation by members of the media or other visitors
- To protect the media representative, visitor and the organization itself.

The M'Lop Tapang Child Protection Policy applies to all adults working directly with children. This includes staff, volunteers, trainers and donors (if applicable) that have direct interaction with children.

All visitors must adhere to section 3.6 of the MT Child Protection Policy 2016, even if they are not working directly with children. This states that:

“M'Lop Tapang personnel must not fondle, hold, kiss, hug or touch minors in an inappropriate or culturally insensitive way. Under no circumstance should any physical contact have the appearance of being sexual in any way. To avoid misunderstanding, it is recommended that a child be asked for permission before touching or holding hands if necessary during the course of work.”

In particular, visitors should understand that they are strangers to the children, unlike MT employees who are familiar to the children and



have gradually gained the trust of the children. All MT teams are rigorously trained and tested annually on child protection guidelines that are specific to the challenges faced when working with children in Cambodia. MT social workers educate all children on the importance of personal safety and space. In particular they work hard to raise awareness of the dangers from both foreign and local child sex offenders, who may aim to exploit vulnerable children in Cambodia.

Some children, in particular those that have suffered from different forms of neglect, may have a tendency to display over affectionate behaviors and to appear to be too trusting of visitors.

It is important that **ALL VISITORS** acknowledge that they have a role to play in this education process and that they do not inadvertently undo the work of our dedicated social and child protection workers by being over familiar with the children.

For example, visitors hugging, carrying and cuddling children can undermine the safety messages we promote to staff and children, as well as being confusing for children.

Please understand that as visitors, however kind your intentions are, visitors have little or no understanding of the family background and issues that each individual child has experienced.

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This policy also adheres to Article 49 of Law of Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation 2008 Ministry of Justice, Kingdom of Cambodia.

“Newspapers and all other mass media shall be prohibited from publishing or broadcasting or disseminating any information which can lead to public knowledge of the identities of the victims of offences stipulated in this law.”

1 Interviewing children and adults

- 1.1 Any individual story used should be within the context of describing MT’s activities in general and should not be the



main focus of the article. All participants will receive full explanation of the purpose of the media article from MT staff.

- 1.2 Permission must always be obtained from the MT Management team prior to any form of interviews taking place.
- 1.3 An approved social worker / staff member must be present at all times during an interview.
- 1.4 Full permission must be gained from the interviewee. The interviewee must be informed on the background and use of this information before he / she gives consent to participate.
- 1.5 The child must be given control at all times and never be forced to continue if she or she does not wish to.
- 1.6 The Interview and gathering of information process must always maintain the best interests of the child / beneficiaries at all times and never cause any form of trauma to interviewee.
- 1.7 Real names will never be used in order to maintain anonymity
- 1.8 Victims of sexual abuse **must never** be interviewed – this is for safeguarding reasons and maintaining the best interests of that child.

2 Use of Photography

- 2.1 Permission must be sort from individual children or adults (with the assistance from accompanying MT employee.)
- 2.2 No photos of naked children, or adults or children who appear to be traumatized or in any vulnerable situation (E.g. crying, using drugs, in conflict with the law etc.) Children or adults will be fully informed of the reason of the visit and media presence before giving consent.

3 Center and community visits with MT

- 3.1 Permission must always be authorized by the MT Management team prior to visits.
- 3.2 Children and adults must be fully informed before any filming, photography or interviews, and full consent must have been



agreed.

- 3.3 No questions relating to HIV status, physical or sexual abuse / exploitation, criminality, drug use or any other issue that may leave individuals feeling violated is allowed.
- 3.4 No real names or personal details are to be used.
- 3.5 A MT social worker must be present at all times; they have the authority to terminate the process at any time to protect their clients.
- 3.6 Visitors must never offer cash or in kind donations direct to families or children.
- 3.7 MT does not hold responsibility for loss or damage of equipment or possessions during field visits.
- 3.8 Appropriate attire and behavior must be used at all times.

I accept these terms and agree to abide by M'Lop Tapang's Media and Visitor Guidelines 2016 at all times during my visit.

Name:

Date:

Email:

Organization:

Signature:

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.