Youth Justice has an obligation to ensure the physical and emotional wellbeing of young people under its supervision is maintained at all times. Individuals acting as facilitators, volunteers or mentors as part of programs, activities or interventions to Youth Justice clients are expected to meet identified suitability criteria. The suitability criteria can be divided into the broad sub-areas of Safety & Security, Training, Conduct and Supervision & Support (as shown below), however, all sub-areas are equally important and the overall criteria should be viewed as a whole (as shown below).

**Facilitator, Volunteer & Mentor Suitability**

**=**

**Conduct**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Maintain appropriate professional boundaries | Display professional behaviour and treat all others with respect |
| Neither accept or offer gifts to/from clients | Be reliable and accountable for personal actions |
| Display appropriate control over mood and emotions at all times | Conduct should be consistent with Youth Justice legislation, policies and procedures |
| Be aware of obligations re: mandatory notification protocols | Respect individuality re: religion, culture and sexuality |
| Respect the client’s rights to privacy and confidentiality | Acknowledge and understand vulnerabilities of the population. |

**Safety & Security**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Participate in required Youth Justice/AYTC induction training as required | Be aware of Youth Justice legislation, policies and procedures relevant to the area of work and target population |
| Follow the directions of Youth Justice staff at all times |

**Supervision & Support**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| All programs should include appropriate debriefing mechanism for staff working directly with young people | Program provider organisations will ultimately be responsible for the conduct of all representatives |
| Parent organisations should ensure all representatives have the necessary skills to meet suitability criteria |

**Training**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Must hold a valid DCSI Child-related Screening Clearance | Must demonstrate an understanding of Trauma-Informed Care principles |
| Must hold a valid Child Safe Environment (CSE) training certificate from a recognised training organisation |

**Incidences of Misconduct**

* Minor concerns related to misconduct will initially be discussed with the individual worker.
* If concerns persist, or if misconduct is of a repeated or more serious nature, feedback will be provided to the individual’s management.
* Further repeat incidences may result in future applications for access to Youth Justice clients being denied.
* Serious misconduct, where concerns for safety or wellbeing of young people exist, may result in immediate expulsion or the individual being reported to the South Australia Police or the Department for Child Protection.

**For more information contact:**

Luke Francis

Principal Programs Officer, Youth Justice

Ph: (08) 8267 7105

Em: [luke.francis@sa.gov.au](mailto:luke.francis@sa.gov.au)