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## New Safety Policy to Protect Minors Participating in Campus Programs

Office of the President

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## New Safety Policy to Protect Minors Participating in Campus Programs

Through our combined efforts to educate, discover and connect, we often have the privilege of interacting with children and young adults through summer camps, educational workshops, cultural events and programs such as 4-H. As we administer these programs, our focus is on both providing educational opportunities and promoting a safe learning environment, especially for minors.

Leaders from the UT System and each campus and institute have worked together to develop a new policy on programs for minors. The objective of [Safety Policy 0575](#) is to promote a safe environment for minors by fostering a University culture that is committed to preventing, recognizing, reporting and addressing child abuse and child sexual abuse.

The policy taking effect Jan. 1, 2014 includes the following key provisions relating to criminal background checks, training and reporting:

- All employees or individuals in a contractual or volunteer position with the University who meet the policy's definition of a "covered adult" will receive criminal background checks at least once every four years as a condition of participating in a program that meets the policy's definition of a "covered program"
- All employees who meet the policy's definition of a "program director" or "covered adult" will undergo training at least once every two years on preventing, recognizing, reporting and addressing child abuse
- All members of the University community are required to comply with Tennessee laws on mandatory reporting of child abuse and child sexual abuse

I encourage you to review the policy in detail and direct questions to campus and institute leaders. Additional information about implementation efforts at each campus and institute will be shared soon by chancellors or the designated officials they have assigned.

Thank you for your attention to this important initiative, and I appreciate everything you do for the University.

All the best,  
Joe

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