



## Sponsor Visit Guidelines

Congratulations! You're about to have the experience of a lifetime as you visit your sponsored child!

These guidelines are to help make your visit a great one – both for you, your sponsored child and his or her family. While some of the guidelines might seem obvious, we want to make sure you're as prepared as possible for a journey into another culture with its own unique norms and traditions.

Most importantly, we want you to be informed to ensure that you and our sponsored children are protected.

### Protecting the kids

As you know, the safety of our sponsored kids is our top priority and we're sure you'll be glad to know we've developed child safeguarding policies that cover the kids' interactions with both CI's staff and with you, their sponsors.

Here's how these policies apply to your visit:

- A staff member and a member of the child's family must be with you at all times during your visit.
- Visits should always be coordinated with CI staff, even if you and your sponsored child live in the same country.
- Home, school, hotel/resort and beach visits are not possible.
- To maintain privacy and security don't share your personal contact information with your sponsored child or family.
- To minimize disruption to your sponsored child and his or her family, visits are limited to one really great day.
- To ensure that local staff can accompany and assist you, visits must occur during the working hours of our agency in the community you visit.
- If you share any photos, particularly on social media, make sure to disable *geotagging* on your phone or camera so you don't publish the exact location of your sponsored child.
- Be mindful of other location-revealing clues in information you share, such as signage in your child's neighborhood or the community center.
- Never post identifying information such as your child's full name or ID number.

No matter how much travel experience you have, our local staff has specific expertise about the community you will be visiting. Follow the staffer's lead. (And, please, don't ask him or

her to make exceptions to any policy for you.) Our experts know best and make decisions with both your safety and the safety of your sponsored child and family in mind. Thanks in advance for your understanding!

## **Protecting you**

### **• Being culturally aware**

Social distancing may be required during the visit to ensure everyone remains safe and healthy.

To make sure your child and his/her family are comfortable during your visit, please allow the child to maintain his or her personal space and, if inclined, to initiate contact *first* such as hugging or holding hands.

In addition, avoid discussing religious and political views out of respect for those of your sponsored child and his or her family.

What is seen as appropriate can vary drastically across cultures. The local staff accompanying you can explain local norms and expectations to help ensure you're aware and respectful of what's appropriate.

### **• Dressing for success**

While standards of dress vary around the world, there's one rule that tends to work everywhere: Keep it simple and modest.

Conservative clothing such as jeans, khakis, T-shirts and polo shirts are great for both comfort and appropriateness.

Shorts, shirts with low necklines, halter-tops, miniskirts, swimwear and excessively tight clothing are not appropriate. This clothing is especially inappropriate in Zambia, India and the Philippines, where local customs require pants or skirts that fall below the knee. Shorts are definitely a no-go.

## **Alcohol, drugs and smoking**

Visitors may not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs when visiting a sponsored child. If you smoke, please do so when you're not in the presence of sponsored children.

## **Bringing guests**

Bringing a friend or loved one with you? Great! We're glad you want to share the joy of sponsorship with a travel companion.

Just make sure the individual is familiar with these guidelines and is as committed to following them as you are:

- Any guest who will accompany you on the day of the visit must also be noted during the visit preparation to ensure that adequate transportation needs can be accommodated and that Child Protection Guidelines are met.
- *All guests who will be 18 years of age on the date of the visit must complete a background check and returned the signed Visit Guidelines & Liability Form prior to the visit.*
- Also keep in mind that public displays of affection are not culturally acceptable in most of the countries we serve.

### **Giving gifts**

Want to bring a gift along for your sponsored child? We've got some important restrictions we need to follow. That means the following gifts — while generous — are automatic no-nos:

- Cash, in any amount, which can cause a number of problems for the family within the community (jealousy, risk of theft and more).
- Clothing items that are not new, age-appropriate or contain questionable designs or labels. (Staff can help you determine whether clothing is suitable.).
- Music containing profanity or other offensive language.
- No new or used digital devices (cell phones, laptops, tablets, e-readers, etc.).

As an alternative to giving your child or family cash during the visit, you can give an Extra Gift donation by visiting [children.org](http://children.org) or calling our Care Team at 800-888-3089. Your donation will be provided to the family separately from your visit.

### **Health Recommendations**

Children International follows the recommendations of the World Health Organization and the CDC.

And our agencies follow their local government guidelines and restrictions regarding health recommendations and requirements, as well as their own agency-established guidelines.

Depending on the health status of sponsored families and sponsors, agencies reserve the right to cancel a visit at any time.

To read more about the country you will be traveling to and local health information, please visit:

[www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)

[www.usembassy.gov](http://www.usembassy.gov)

### **Cancelling your trip**

If you discover the need to cancel your trip, please call our Care Team as soon as possible at 800-888-3089. If you are already in the country where your child lives, please contact the agency directly.

If the government declares a State of Emergency or Mobilization Restrictions, our agencies will suspend sponsor visits until the government lifts the restrictions.

With these guidelines in mind, you're ready to have an amazing visit. We know it will strengthen the bond between you and your sponsored child. Enjoy!

*I have read and will follow the Sponsor Visit Guidelines during my visits with my sponsored child (children).*

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Release of Liability

## Donor Field Visit

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that during my visit to (country) \_\_\_\_\_ with Children International, there may be risks involved. These risks could include physical injury, limited or no access to medical care, and damage to or loss of property.

I acknowledge that I am choosing to participate in this visit voluntarily, despite these potential risks. I understand that Children International will take reasonable steps to minimize these risks, but they cannot guarantee my safety and will not be responsible for any injuries or other damages I may suffer.

By signing this form, I agree not to hold Children International, their staff, or their partners responsible for any injuries, damages, or losses that may occur during the visit.

I have read this agreement carefully and fully understand its contents. I am aware that this is a release, and I am signing it voluntarily and of my own free will.

Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_