

Multiple District 4 Lions
Youth Protection Policy and Procedures
February 24, 2020 (*Revised July 2020*)

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MULTIPLE DISTRICT 4 LIONS

YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY

Introduction

Multiple District 4 Lions (MD4) has an excellent record of supporting youth through Lions Youth Exchange, Leos, scholarship programs, mentoring and literacy initiatives, and other youth programs. In developing and implementing events and programs involving youth, the Districts and Lions Clubs in MD4 MUST adopt and enforce the following Statement of Conduct for Working with Youth and the Youth Protection Policy and Procedures provisions in this document.

These policies, procedures and guidelines apply to all MD4 Districts and Lions Clubs. This policy is incorporated by reference into the Multiple District 4 Policy and Procedure Manual. All Clubs that wish to participate in Youth Service Programs MUST comply with the Policy and Procedures described in this document and the attached Appendix. Noncompliance may result in a referral to Lions Clubs International and a restriction in working with youth.

Statement of Conduct for Working with Youth

MD4 strives to create and maintain a safe environment for all youth who participate in Lion activities. To the best of their ability, Lions, Lions' spouses and partners, and other volunteers MUST safeguard the children and young people they come into contact with and protect them from physical, sexual, mental and emotional abuse. **(Appendix A)**

MD4 requires all Districts and Lions Clubs to address the issue of youth protection, and to follow the MD4 Youth Protection Policy and Procedures. A District / Club may establish additional policies and procedures as determined appropriate to protect the safety and well-being of all who participate in Lion Youth Service Programs. MD4 is committed to the protection of the youth we serve, Lions and our volunteers.

School based Leo Clubs that meet on the school site, have a faculty school advisor, and follow California school district clearance policy and procedures are exempt from this process. The Leo Activities in these Leo Clubs are considered a school-based activity. A letter from the school district identifying the faculty advisor and name of the Leo Club is required for MD4 records.

Non-school based Leo Club advisors and volunteers are not exempt from this process.

All other Lion Youth Programs advisors and volunteers (such as, but not limited to Youth Exchange, Kids in Sight, Youth Outreach) are not exempt from this process.

Lions Clubs may choose to have more stringent requirements than this policy and procedures provide, but not less.

Definitions

Youth: Any person under age 18.

Lion Youth Service (LYS): All club and district activities involving youth including but not limited to Lions Youth Exchange, District Youth Leadership, and Leo Cubs.

Volunteer: Any adult involved with Lion Youth Service or Lions sponsored youth programs who has contact with youth is a volunteer. This includes, but is not limited to, Lions and/or their spouses or partners, and other non-Lion volunteers.

Types of Volunteer Contact with Youth

- **Frequent and Recurring Contact**

Persons having frequent and recurring contact are individuals who have an ongoing role in a Lions Youth Service Program. These volunteers **MUST** complete the screening and training procedures for volunteers. This includes but is not limited to individuals who are Leo Advisors, Youth Exchange Host Families, work closely with Leo participants, or who provide transportation for youth to or from meetings or events on a regular basis. After screening and training these volunteers will be identified as **LIONS YOUTH LEADER**.

- **Infrequent or Occasional Contact**

Volunteers who have infrequent or occasional contact are individuals who are not directly responsible for Multiple District 4 Lions Youth Service Programs participants. This type of contact **MUST** be infrequent and incidental so that a regular pattern is not developed. Further, it **MUST** take place in a group setting with no reasonably foreseeable risk of abuse or harassment.

Volunteers having casual contact with youth are not required to be screened or to complete youth protection training. However, Multiple District 4 Lions urge that three or more people (a combination of students and adults that **MUST** include a **LIONS YOUTH LEADER**) are present during any outing that is characterized as infrequent or occasional contact with a youth.

- **Overnight Travel and Accommodations**

This policy permits a young person under age 18 to take advantage of group overnight opportunities that might occur such as attending a Lions District Conference or participating in a scheduled Leo weekend, in which the youth will be in the care and custody of a **LIONS YOUTH LEADER**. For overnight travel to be permitted, the Youth Service Protection Officer for the applicable program **MUST** approve the overnight travel and accommodations. If overnight hotel accommodations are required, unless the youth is a Lions Youth Exchange student who may stay with a member of their host family, the youth will share a room with other youth participants of the same gender or will be provided an individual room. These guidelines **MUST** be followed, otherwise the

proposed activity will not be permitted. It is understood that no activity can be totally free of risk and the objective of this policy is to minimize risk for all parties.

Screening of Lions Youth Service Volunteers

The following screening steps MUST be completed prior to participation in youth activities.

- Complete background screening application on <https://www.md4lions.org/>.
- Click on Youth Protection Policy and Youth Program Volunteer Screening found on the Home page.
- Identify your District and click on your District. This will take you to the application for screening.
- Volunteers will need to pay for screenings. Districts and Clubs may make arrangements to pay for volunteer screenings.
- The background screening is good for 2 years

Lions Youth Exchange

Volunteer and host families MUST complete the appropriate screening processes for their particular roles in accordance with Multiple District 4 Lions Youth Protection Policy & Procedures, governmental requirements, and any other regulatory or legal requirements. Compliance with these requirements MUST be documented and maintained.

Leo Clubs, Leo Leadership Workshops, and Other Youth Programs

All volunteers who will have frequent and recurring contact with youth MUST:

- Complete a volunteer application (**Appendix C**)
- Undergo personal interviews
- Have completed three documented reference checks (**Appendix D & E**)
- Undergo background/criminal record clearance through MD4 Authorized Provider
- Undergo TB Testing or show proof of recent TB Test
- Complete Boy Scouts of America Youth (BSA) Protection Awareness Training
- Provide proof of valid driver's license, driving record, and insurance (when providing transportation)

Management of Screening Process

The District and Club Youth Protection Officer for each Leo District/Leo Club is responsible for managing the compliance process for volunteers for that program. Volunteers should not begin service until the applicant has been cleared to work with youth and the TB Clearance and driving records have been submitted. A volunteer with an approved background clearance and TB Clearance may begin volunteering with driving restrictions. Applicants must complete Youth Protection Training within 15 days of starting to volunteer.

Person Prohibited from Volunteering for Lions Youth Service

A person prohibited from participating in LYS is anyone who:

- Has been convicted of any offense which resulted in harm to an individual, including, but not limited to assault, sexual assault, sexual harassment, or neglect,
- Has been convicted of any offense which, in the opinion of the District/Club Youth Protection Officer, suggests an unacceptable risk of harm to a person in the care of that individual, or
- Is a person subject to a restraining order as the result of an allegation of Domestic Violence.

Training

Multiple District 4 Lions will provide youth protection awareness (i.e. abuse and harassment prevention) training for all Lions Youth Service Program volunteers via BSA online Youth Protection Training and provide certification of completion. Youth Protection Committee members and volunteers MUST complete this training every two years.

Multiple District 4 Youth Protection Committee for Youth Service Programs

Multiple District 4 MUST appoint 4 Lions to the Youth Protection Committee, one from each Area. The Committee and members report directly to the Council of Governors.

The Youth Protection Committee is responsible for ensuring that all volunteers who will have recurring and ongoing contact with youth successfully complete the following prior to participating in Youth Activities as a Lions Youth Leader:

- Receive a background screening
- Are cleared to work with youth
- Complete required BSA Youth Protection Training identified by MD4

The MD4 District Youth Protection Committee Member works directly with the District Governors in his/her Area and submits reports and information regarding status of clearances and training to the respective District Governor.

The MD4 Youth Protection Committee Members (**Appendix G**) works with the District Governor Team and District Compliance Committee to ensure that the Multiple District 4 Youth Protection Policy and Procedures are followed for all Youth Service Programs in the respective District. Examples include but are not limited to: Youth Exchange, Leos District, and Leo Club volunteers who have frequent and recurring contact with youth as a Lions Youth Leader.

Additional Responsibilities:

- Obtain Club Youth Protection Compliance Forms (**Appendix F**) from all MD4 Lions Clubs in Area providing and participating in Lion Youth Service Programs within 30 days of the new Lions' year (July 30)

- Submit a report to the Council of Governors summarizing the receipt of all compliance forms within 45 days of the new Lions' year (August 14 or August COG if earlier)
- Submit an annual report indicating the number of Youth Service Programs, number of Lion Youth Leaders by area and for entire MD4 annually within 45 days of the new Lions' year (August 14 or August COG if earlier)

All adults to whom a youth or someone on behalf of a youth reports an incident of abuse, harassment, or neglect MUST record and report the allegation following established guidelines. (Appendix B)

MD4 Districts, Lions Clubs, and Youth Protection Officers are responsible for:

- Informing the District Governor of any allegation of sexual abuse or harassment made by or on behalf of a youth program participant.
- Maintaining records of all allegations made.
- Ensuring proper handling of allegations, according to local laws and MD4 Youth Protection Policy and Procedures, and protection of the interests of all involved.
- Ensuring that Volunteer Applications, background clearances, and references for adult volunteers working with youth are maintained for at least ten years and are kept confidential.

INSURANCE AND INDEMNIFICATION

- Lions Clubs International and MD4 have experienced litigation trends and issues arising out of the interdependent relationships between Lions and other supported youth groups and activities. And, while Lions Clubs International provides a general liability insurance program to protect its interests while delivering services to associated youth activities it is required that the associated agencies—in order to avoid some of the predicable and inherent conflicts arising out of their interdependent roles and obligations also maintain and provide primary general liability insurance in connection with covered claims made as a result of the delivery in connection with official youth activities.
- Associated organizations will indemnify to the fullest extent permitted by the law of the state where the activity is taking place against an award of punitive damages against any Lions employees, directors, officers, members or volunteers who act in “Good Faith” to enforce this policy.
- “Good Faith” as used herein MUST require Lions Clubs International and its agents to remove from any involvement in the youth program any employee, officer, member or other person known or suspected of engaging in conduct prevented herein or that might pose a risk of harm to others, including but not limited to, actual or alleged acts of criminal conduct,

violence, substance abuse, or reckless conduct involving motor vehicles or firearms. This does not require that the associated program indemnify any Lion or agent for acts intended or expected to result in harm or actions which are not in ‘Good Faith’ as described above.

Appendix A

Multiple District 4 Policy Against Sexual Abuse and Harassment

Multiple District 4 has a zero-tolerance policy against abuse and harassment. The District Governor, District Youth Service Chairperson, and District Youth Protection Officer will make every prudent and reasonable effort to ensure that no youth program participant is subjected to harassment or abuse in the context of Lions' activities and the District will take appropriate action if such behavior occurs.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse refers to engaging in implicit or explicit sexual acts with a youth or forcing or encouraging a youth to engage in implicit or explicit sexual acts alone or with another person of any age, of the same sex or the opposite sex.

Examples of sexual abuse include, but are not limited to:

- Any deliberate touching of sexual areas
- Non-touching offenses, such as indecent exposure, or exposing a minor or student to sexual or pornographic material.
- Any touching coupled with comments that could be understood to be a request to participate in sexual activity.

Sexual harassment refers to sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. In some cases, sexual harassment precedes sexual abuse and is a technique used by sexual predators to desensitize or "groom" their victims.

Examples of sexual harassment may include, but are not limited to:

- Sexual advances
- Sexual epithets, jokes, written or oral references to sexual conduct
- Gossip regarding one's sex life, and comments about an individual's sexual activity, deficiencies, or prowess
- Verbal abuse of a sexual nature
- Displaying sexually suggestive objects or pictures
- Sexual leering or whistling
- Any inappropriate physical contact such as brushing or touching
- Obscene language or gestures and suggestive or insulting comments

Appendix B

Guidelines for Recording and Reporting an Allegation of Sexual Abuse or Harassment *For use by all adults to whom a youth reports an incident of abuse, harassment, or neglect.*

Recording a Description of the Allegations

- **Listen attentively and stay calm.** Acknowledge that it takes a lot of courage to report abuse. It is appropriate to be supportive. Do not express shock, horror, or disbelief.
- **Assure privacy and discuss the limits of confidentiality.** Explain that you will have to tell someone about the abuse and/or harassment to make it stop.
- **Get the facts, but do not interrogate.** Ask the youth questions that establish what happened and who was involved. Reassure the youth that he/she did the right thing in telling you. Avoid asking “why” questions. Your responsibility is to present the youth's story to the proper authorities.
- **Be non-judgmental and reassure the youth involved.** Do not be critical of anything that has happened or anyone who might be involved. It is especially important not to blame or criticize the youth. Assure the youth that they were brave and mature to come to you.
- **Record:** Keep a written record of the conversation with the youth as soon as possible, including the date and time of the conversation. Use the youth's words and record only what has been told to you. **KEEP TO THE FACTS AND DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR OPINIONS.**
- **Confidentiality:** Do not contact the person who is being accused of abuse or harassment. Do not tell anyone about the report other than those required by the guidelines. Care **MUST** be taken to protect the rights of both the youth and the accused during the investigation.

Protecting Youth

To ensure the safety and well-being of the youth involved, immediately remove the youth from the situation and all contact with the alleged perpetrator. Give reassurance that this is for the youth's safety and is not a punishment.

Reporting Allegations

The adult to whom the allegations were reported **MUST** immediately contact the applicable Youth Protection Officer, who in turn **MUST immediately contact local law enforcement** and the District Youth Protection Officer, whose name and contact information are available in **Appendix F**.

All allegations of criminal abuse or harassment **MUST** be reported to local police authorities for investigation immediately. Investigations **MUST** be left entirely to law enforcement authorities. **HOWEVER**, whether the harassment meets the criminal requirements is up to law enforcement, not the District Youth Protection Officer or the District Governor; therefore, all allegations **MUST** be reported to local law enforcement.

In cases of non-criminal harassment (harassment that does not meet the criminal measure of intent and/or proof beyond reasonable doubt), the District Youth Protection Officer, and District Governor are responsible for any necessary follow-up.

If the allegation involves an exchange student, the District Youth Protection Officer and/or the Youth Exchange Committee Chair **MUST** report any allegation immediately to the local law enforcement and the District Governor. In addition, the Youth Exchange Committee Chair **MUST** report the allegation to their responsible officer, victim's family/responsible guardian.

The Youth Protection Officer and an attorney (determined by the severity of the allegation), MUST quickly meet with the parties to determine what steps MUST be taken to safeguard the well-being of the youth involved. These activities MUST be completed in confidentiality to protect the reputations of all the parties involved until decisions are made and actions are taken. The incident and allegations are not to be discussed. Actions MUST be taken to place the youth in a safe and neutral placement, and to suspend contact with any youth by the alleged abuser or harasser. Everyone MUST be instructed not to discuss the matter with anyone except the local authorities.

It is probable that even if a claim of sexual abuse, harassment, or neglect were not substantiated, there would be no way that the youth could be returned to the original situation. Other arrangements MUST be made.

For use by District Youth Protection Officer:

- Confirm that the youth has been removed from the situation immediately and has no further contact with the alleged abuser or harasser.
- Make sure all Allegation Reporting guidelines are followed.
- Ensure the youth receives immediate support services. If available, offer the youth an independent, professional counselor to represent the interests of the youth.
- In the case involving a Lions' Youth Exchange student, the Lions' country contact officer MUST contact the youth's parents or legal guardians and will outline the steps taken to safeguard the health and well-being of the youth(s).
- Keep the District Governor informed of initial and follow up action.
- If an investigation into a claim of sexual abuse or harassment is inconclusive, then, for the safety of youth participants and the protection of the accused, additional safeguards MUST be put in place to assure the protection of any youth with whom the individual may have future contact. If there are subsequent claims of sexual abuse or harassment, the adult MUST be permanently prohibited from working with youth in a Lion's context. Regardless of criminal or civil guilt, the continued presence of the adult could be detrimental to the reputation of the organization and could be harmful to youth. It can also benefit the adult in preventing additional accusations from other youth. A person who is accused but later cleared of charges, may apply to be reinstated to participate in youth programs. Reinstatement is not a right, and no guarantee is made that he or she will be reinstated to his or her former position
- A Lions Club that does not follow the Youth Protection Policy cannot participate in Lions Youth Activities.

Appendix C

MULTIPLE DISTRICT 4 LIONS YOUTH SERVICE VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Applicant Information			
Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Date
Address		Apartment/Unit #	
City	State	ZIP	
Date of Birth	Phone	Email Address	
Driver's License No.	Are you a member of a Lions Club?	If yes, Name of Club & Year Joined	

VOLUNTEER HISTORY WITH YOUTH for past 5 years (attach additional sheets if necessary)	
Organization Name Address City, State & Zip Position & Dates Held	Organization Name Address City, State & Zip Position & Dates Held

VOLUNTEER qualifications & training
What relevant qualifications and training do you have for this position? Please describe in full.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY for past 5 years (attach additional sheets if necessary)	
Current Employer Address City, State & Zip Position & Dates of Employment Supervisor's Name & Phone	Prior Employer Address City, State & Zip Position & Dates of Employment Supervisor's Name & Phone

Prior Employer	Prior Employer
Address	Address
City, State & Zip	City, State & Zip
Position & Dates of Employment	Position & Dates of Employment
Supervisor's Name & Phone	Supervisor's Name & Phone

PERSONAL REFERENCES (may not be relatives & no more than one Lion reference please)

Name	Name
Relationship	Relationship
Address	Address
City, State & Zip	City, State & Zip
Phone	Phone

CRIMINAL HISTORY

All Applicants Must Successfully Complete the Following Prior to Working with Youth:

- Background Check
- Copy of TB Test Clearance (within last 2 years)
- Copy of Valid California Driver's License and if transporting youth, a copy of Valid Auto Insurance

Have you ever been convicted of or pled guilty to any crime(s)?

Have you ever been subject to court order, including civil, family, or criminal courts involving sexual, physical or verbal abuse, including but not limited to domestic violence, civil harassment injunction or protective order?

If yes, please explain. Indicate dates(s) and the country and state in which each event occurred. Attach a separate sheet if needed.

APPLICANT CERTIFICATION

I acknowledge that Multiple District 4 (MD4) is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all participants in our Youth Programs and that it is the duty of all Lions, their spouse and/or partner, and any other volunteers, to safeguard to the best of their ability the welfare of young people involved in Lion programs and activities, and to prevent any physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of youth participants. I understand that participation as a volunteer for a MD4 Lion Youth Service Program requires that I participate in Youth Protection training and pass an exam at the conclusion of the training.

I certify that all the statements in this application, and any attachments, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that I have not withheld any information that would affect my application unfavorably. I understand that MD4 will deny a volunteer position to anyone convicted of a crime of violence. I give my permission to MD4 to verify information contained in this application including background checks and driving records, contact with my former employers, and with references provided. I understand that the information provided will be used, in part, to determine my eligibility for a volunteer position with Multiple District 4 Lions Clubs and that as long as I remain a volunteer, this information may be checked again at any time. I acknowledge that I will have an opportunity to review the background check received, and if I dispute it, a procedure is available for clarification.

In consideration of my acceptance and participation in Multiple District 4 Lion Youth Service Programs, I hereby release and agree to save, hold harmless, and indemnify all members, officers, directors, committee members, employees of the participating Lions clubs and districts, and of Lions Clubs International (“Indemnities”), from any and all liability for any loss, property damage, personal injury, or death, including any such liability that might arise out of the negligence of any of the indemnities or might be suffered or claimed by me as a result of an investigation of my background in connection with this application. I further agree to conform to the rules, regulations, and policies of MD4 Lion Youth Service Programs and its affiliates.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above affidavit, consent, and waiver and that I sign this form voluntarily.

Applicant’s Signature

Date

FOR MD4 USE ONLY

Appendix D
Sample Personal Reference Questions for Telephone Interview

**PERSONAL REFERENCE FOR LIONS MULTIPLE DISTRICT 4
YOUTH SERVICE VOLUNTEER**

Applicant Name: _____

Organization: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Phone _____

How do you know (applicant)?

How long have you known him/her?

S/he has applied for a position a volunteer with a Multiple District 4 Lions program working directly with youth (explain position). Are you aware of (applicant) doing any similar work in the past?

Do you think s/he is well suited to the responsibilities of this position?

What do you think his/her strengths are?

Do you have any concerns about him/her doing this type of volunteer work?

Do you know of any reason we wouldn't want (applicant) to work directly with young people?

Is there anything else you think we should know about (applicant)?

Reference conducted by _____

Date _____

Appendix E

Sample Employment/Volunteer Reference Questions for Telephone Interview
**EMPLOYMENT/VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION REFERENCE FOR LIONS
MULTIPLE DISTRICT 4 YOUTH SERVICE VOLUNTEER**

Applicant Name _____ Organization _____

Position Held _____

Dates Held _____

Supervisor/Director's Name _____

Phone _____

Verify reporting relationship, position and dates held.

Please tell me about the responsibilities of this position.

How would you describe this person's ability to full those responsibilities?

What did s/he do well in this position?

Were there any issues concerning his/her performance?

The volunteer position s/he is applying for involves working directly with youth. Do you know of any reason we wouldn't want (applicant) to work directly with young people?

What else do you think I should know about (applicant)?

(If not currently employed): Would you rehire this person if the opportunity became available?

Reference conducted by _____

Date _____

Appendix F
MULTIPLE DISTRICT 4 YOUTH SERVICE COMPLIANCE FORM

This form **MUST** be completed prior to participation in any Multiple District 4 Youth Service Program and annually thereafter.

The Lions Club: _____

District: MD4-_____

Acknowledges receipt and review of the following information:

- Multiple District 4 Lions Youth Protection Policy <https://md4lions.org/youth-protection-policy>

Confirms that this Lions Club

- Is operating its Youth Service Programs in accordance with the Multiple District 4 Lions policies and guidelines.
- Has completed Board adoption of the Multiple District 4 Youth Protection Policy:

Date of Board of Adoption: _____

Is conducting or will conduct the following Youth Service programs/activities during this Lions year (check all that apply).

- Youth Exchange
- Leo Club
- Leo Leadership Workshop
- Other (Please explain. Attached extra sheet if needed.)

Club President
Signature: _____ Date: _____

*This form **MUST** be returned to the District Youth Protection Officer by June 30th of each year.*

Appendix G
MULTIPLE DISTRICT 4 LIONS YOUTH SERVICE CHAIRPERSONS
& YOUTH PROTECTION OFFICERS CONTACT INFORMATION

MD4 Youth Protection Officer Area 1

NAME Claudia Miller

PHONE 209-596-1219

EMAIL ckay613cayucos@gmail.com

MD4 Youth Protection Officer Area 2

NAME Don Gall

PHONE 209-480-9217

EMAIL dongall95336@gmail.com

MD4 Youth Protection Officer Area 3

NAME Juanita Nichols

PHONE 805-720-8508

EMAIL lionjuanitagn@gmail.com

MD4 Youth Protection Officer Area 4

NAME Manny Sanchez

PHONE 562-708-9061

EMAIL lionmanny@gmail.com

Appendix H

MD4 Youth Protection Committee Duties and Responsibilities

Criteria for Selection of MD4 Youth Protection Committee Members

1. **Experience in background clearance procedures and/or facilities/programs requiring background clearance to work with individuals served**
2. **Demonstrated skills in working with confidential information and maintaining confidentiality following established laws, rules and regulations.**
3. **Experience with youth or vulnerable populations requiring mandatory background clearance**
4. **Essential Duties:**
 - a. **Review background clearances. Report pass/fail clearance to District Governor or his/her designee within 3 days of receipt of background clearance.**
 - b. **Receive Training Certificates for each approved Lion Youth Leader file and enter date received in database for approved Lion Youth Leaders and date next training is required. (2 years)**
 - c. **Receive TB Clearance and enter in database for approved Lion Youth Leaders and date next training is required. (3 years)**
 - d. **Meet as a Team when an applicant does not pass background clearance and he/she ask to appeal the decision and review with the applicant the circumstances of the denial. The Team will review all information and make a decision as to allow or not allow an exception. The decision should be documented, and a record maintained for 6 months. The applicant should be told the outcome of the decision.**

Handling of Confidential Information

1. Sterling is the permanent custodian of records.
2. Each Area Youth Protection Committee Member will have access to the Area he/she is responsible for reviewing and managing.
3. Each Area Member will have an assigned access code and password specific to their Area.
4. Background Clearance Documents will not be held by MD4 or Area Members. Documents will be maintained at Sterling Volunteers.
5. The MD4 Administrator and the Council Chair will have access to Sterling Volunteer Records.
6. The MD4 Youth Protection Committee Members, MD4 Administrator, and Council Chair are required to sign Confidentiality Statement which prohibits the sharing of any information except as directed by policy and procedures.
7. Area Member shares the applicant's status (pass/fail) with the appropriate District Governor or his/her designee within 3 days of receipt of report. Reports are usually available within 24 hours.

Approved Background Clearances

1. Individuals cleared to work with Youth Programs will be posted in the Sterling Volunteers database dashboard. All Area Members have access to the database dashboard. The Sterling database dashboard record is permanent and ongoing.
2. Sterling Volunteers maintains a secure, confidential, and permanent record of all MD4 volunteer applicants.

Not Approved Background Clearances

1. An applicant who does not pass the Background Clearance is able to dispute an unsatisfactory background clearance. The applicant must follow the process outlined by Sterling Volunteers and is solely responsible for addressing any issues identified. This process is between Sterling and the applicant.
2. Sterling will provide MD4 with either a clearance, not cleared, or for consideration report upon completion of the dispute.
3. An applicant with a “For Consideration” finding status will be reviewed by the MD4 Youth Protection Committee and Council Chair to make a final decision on status. This review is on a case by case basis.

Other Required Documentation and Frequency of Submission

1. Applicants must submit proof of most recent
 - a. TB test (within 2 years)
 - b. Certificate of Completion of Training, and
 - c. Proof of valid driver’s license, driving record and valid auto insurance.
 - i. If applicant is not able to provide evidence of driver’s license, driving record, and insurance he/she will not be allowed to transport youth under the age of 18.
2. TB Tests are required every 3 years
3. Driver’s License are required prior to expiration of current License
4. Driving record and proof of insurance are required annually
5. Protecting Youth Training is required every 2 years
6. Background screening is required every 2 years

Appendix I

MD4 Youth Protection District/Club/Volunteer Checklist

District

- Select a District Youth Protection Officer.
- Appoint a Lion who will coordinate with Club Youth Protection Officer on the maintenance all confidential records including volunteer applications, references, TB Test Clearances, Driving Records with Auto Insurance and BSA Training Certificates.

Club Compliance

- Select a Club Youth Protection Officer.
- Appoint a Lion who will coordinate with District Youth Protection Officer on the maintenance all confidential records including volunteer applications, references, TB Test Clearances, Driving Records with Auto Insurance and BSA Training Certificates.
- Completion and submission of Multiple District 4 Youth Service Compliance Form to District Youth Protection Officer by June 30th. (Appendix F)

Volunteers (*Lions Youth Exchange, Leo Clubs, Leos Leadership Workshops & Other Youth Programs, or anyone who has constant one-on-one contact with a minor.*)

- Complete a volunteer application (*Appendix C*)
- Complete Personal Interviews
- Complete three documented Personal Reference for Lions of MD4(*Appendix D*)
- If applicable, complete Employment/Volunteer Organization Reference for Lions (*Appendix E*)
- Complete background/criminal record check.

Set up account with MD 4 authorized clearance agency – Sterling Volunteers (Username & Password)

- Provide proof of most recent TB Test (within last two years). If not available, must undergo TB Test and provide evidence of clearance.
- Complete Youth Protection Awareness within 15 days of clearance. (i.e. abuse & harassment prevention) via BSA Online Youth Protection Training and provide Certificate of Completion. (Valid for two years).
- If transporting youth, provide proof of valid driver's license, driving record, and valid auto insurance.

Upon completion and receipt of all requested documents, the volunteer will be issued a Certificate of Compliance.