

## **Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War National Policy Regarding Minors**

For purposes of this policy, the term “minor” refers to any Brother of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) under 18 years of age, regardless of their membership status within the SUVCW as a Junior, Junior Associate, Associate, or Member. Further, should a federal, state or local statute define a minor as older than this, the SUVCW will observe that older definition, and such statute shall immediately be brought to the attention of the National Counselor.

The following are the MINIMUM requirements regarding minor Brothers of the SUVCW:

1. All minors shall be accompanied by a parent or designated guardian (e.g., a family member or friend who is 18 years of age or older) when participating in ANY SUVCW activity.
2. At no time will a non-related Brother be permitted “one-on-one” contact with a minor. Any interaction with a minor must include at least two (2) Brothers over the age of 18 years at all times.
3. Any Brother who, in good faith, witnesses or suspects any type of physical, mental or sexual abuse of any minor shall immediately report such suspicion to local authorities first, and then to the appropriate local Camp and Department Commanders immediately thereafter.
4. All Brothers shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws pertaining to child abuse and the reporting thereof.
5. While not a requirement, it is recommended that every Brother, who is 18 years or older, who may have contact with a minor, complete training related to the protection of children from abuse of any type. Free training is available from the Boy Scouts of America through their website at <http://www.myscouting.org>. Local Camps may wish to retain a record of those Brothers who have completed such training.

*Adopted by the Council of Administration as a National Policy on July 11, 2014*