

OFFICIAL DOCUMENT: SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Status: version 1.1

Jurisdiction: Global (UK HQ / Nigeria Operations)

CHILD PROTECTION & SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Gracebridge Children & Lifeline Health Foundation

Registered Office: 71-75 Shelton Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2H 9JQ, United Kingdom

Operational Site: Ehime Mbanjo, Imo State, Nigeria

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Gracebridge Children & Lifeline Health Foundation acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults. We are committed to ensuring our safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance, and complies with best practices in both the UK and Nigeria.

Our Mission Context: As an organisation dedicated to "Raising Sons of God through Worship, Excellence, and Obedience," we believe that every child is a gift from God. Protecting them from abuse, neglect, and harm is not just a legal requirement but a spiritual mandate.

2. SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, medical professionals, contractors, and visitors (including visiting clergy and missionaries) across both the UK Headquarters and the Nigeria Campus.

3. THE 'TWO-PERSON' RULE

To protect both the child and the staff member, the following rules are strictly enforced at the Ehime Mbanjo campus:

- **No Lone Adults:** No adult is permitted to be alone with a child in a closed room (including dormitories, classrooms, or clinic consultation rooms) without a second adult present or clear visibility through glass viewing panels.
- **Medical Intimacy:** In the Clinic, all examinations of minors require a chaperone (nurse or guardian) present in the room.

4. SITE SECURITY & ZONING (PHYSICAL PROTECTION)

Based on our Masterplan, the site is strictly zoned to prevent unauthorised access to children:

- **Zone A (Public):** Clinic Reception & Chapel. Open to the community.
- **Zone B (Restricted):** Residential Dormitories & School. **Strictly No Public Access.**
- **The 'Air-Lock' Principle:** Physical gates separate the Clinic (public) from the Orphanage (private). Medical staff must pass through security clearance to enter the residential zone. Patient vehicles are strictly prohibited inside the residential perimeter.

5. SAFER RECRUITMENT

We ensure all Gracebridge staff are safe to work with children through a rigorous vetting process:

- **Criminal Record Checks:** UK staff require DBS checks; Nigeria staff require Police Character Certificates.
- **References:** Two written references verified by phone.
- **Faith & Character:** All staff must sign the *Code of Conduct* aligning with our values of Worship and Obedience.

6. REPORTING CONCERNS (WHISTLEBLOWING)

Any suspicion of abuse (physical, emotional, sexual, or neglect) must be reported immediately.

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** [Name to be Appointed]
- **Director:** Abba Nwaneri
- **Reporting Procedure:** Staff are mandated to report concerns within 1 hour. "Turning a blind eye" is grounds for immediate dismissal.

7. DIGITAL & IMAGE SAFETY

- **Photography:** No images of children are to be taken on personal mobile phones. Official foundation cameras only.
- **Social Media:** Images of children will only be posted with the Director's approval, ensuring the dignity and privacy of the child is maintained.

Declaration of Approval

This policy is approved by the Board of Directors.

Signed: _____

Name: Abba Nwaneri

Position: Director & Founder

Date: 22 January 2026