



MINUTE BY THE CHIEF OF THE STAFF

**Orders and Regulations for Officers of The Salvation Army:
Protection of Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adults**

[For an explanatory letter from the Chief of the Staff see 'Additional Information' below.]

The General has decided that *Orders and Regulations for Officers of The Salvation Army* shall be and is hereby amended as follows:

A. In Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 5, Section 4 'Child and Youth Concerns':

A new paragraph 6 is inserted as follows:

6. **Protection of children and youth.** Officers must be thoroughly familiar with the approved territorial policy and procedures to protect children and youth in the Army's care from abuse of every sort, including psychological, verbal, physical and sexual. All those, whether Salvationists or not, full-time or part-time, officers, employees or volunteers, who work with children and youth are required to follow the official child protection policy and procedures. It should be explained to such workers that the policy operates to protect them, as well as the young people in their care.

The subsequent paragraph is renumbered 7.

B. In Volume 2, Part 1, Chapter 10, 'Social Services':

A new paragraph 4 is inserted as follows:

4. **Client protection.** Every social or community service programme, whether institutional or community/corps-based, must implement the approved territorial policy and procedures to protect clients from abuse of every sort, including psychological, verbal, physical and sexual. All those, whether Salvationists or not, full-time or part-time, officers, employees or volunteers, who work with the clients are required to follow the official client protection policy and procedures. It should be explained to such workers that the policy operates to protect them, as well as the people who are in the programme.

Subsequent paragraphs are renumbered 5-7.

Israel L. Gaither

CHIEF OF THE STAFF

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

16 October 2003

Additional Information

16 October 2003

To: Commissioners, Territorial Commanders and Officers Commanding

Dear Comrades,

Minute by the Chief of the Staff 2003/IA/10
Orders and Regulations for Territorial Commanders and Chief Secretaries

Minute by the Chief of the Staff 2003/IA/11
Orders and Regulations for Officers of The Salvation Army

Minute by the Chief of the Staff 2003/IA/12
Orders and Regulations for Work Among Young People

Protection of Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adults

On behalf of the General, I send you herewith the three captioned Minutes by the Chief of the Staff, which amend various orders and regulations to require every Salvation Army officer with responsibility for the care of children, young people or vulnerable adults to see that adequate measures are in place to protect such people from abuse of any sort.

The matter of the protection of vulnerable people in the Army's care was discussed at two recent meetings of the General's Consultative Council. Members felt strongly that steps must be taken to ensure that, as far as possible, no abuse of such people could take place within any Army context, and, as well, that Army workers were protected from false accusations of abuse. The General shared these concerns, and has consequently taken the decisions contained in the accompanying minutes.

In each territory, a client protection policy should be approved by the TC for implementation in every corps, institution and programme, with a THQ officer designated to ensure that regular training in protection from abuse is given throughout each division. Assistance in drawing up an appropriate territorial policy is available on request (through your respective zonal offices) from the IHQ Legal Department.

I know that you will appreciate the vital part such a policy as this can play in helping the Army to be true to its mission by ensuring that vulnerable people of all ages are safe in our care.

Sincerely,

Israel L. Gaither

CHIEF OF THE STAFF

Electronically Signed by The Chief of the Staff: Israel Gaither 17/10/2003 12:59 AM