



We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

## **Norwich Family YMCA Children's Safety Policy**

The YMCA is dedicated to the safety of all children in our facility and on our grounds. For this reason we ask that the following guidelines be followed at the Norwich Family YMCA:

- Youth Members who are 5<sup>th</sup> grade and under are welcome at the Norwich Family YMCA as long as they are under direct supervision of a parent or authorized and acceptable guardian (sixteen years of age or older), or enrolled in a YMCA program.
- Junior Members in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome at the YMCA unsupervised until 8:00 p.m. After this time, they are required to be enrolled in a YMCA program or under supervision of a parent or authorized and acceptable (guardian sixteen years of age or older).
- Teen Members in grades 9<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade may use all of the YMCA facilities without adult supervision, including the courts, gymnasium, fitness area (with appropriate training and trainer approval), teen room, and swimming pools.

The Norwich Family YMCA is not responsible for the welfare of children who are left unattended and not enrolled in a YMCA program while at the YMCA facility. Parents are urged to accompany their children, especially younger children on their visits to the YMCA.

YMCA employees are not directly supervising junior Members who visit the YMCA daily as "drop in" members, and who are not enrolled in YMCA programming. Present employees are engaged in teaching programs, membership registration & check-in, life guarding and other member services. Building supervisors do monitor the building but "cannot be in all places at the same time".

Parents are reminded that numerous unexpected events may occur while their children are at the YMCA unattended: the child could wander out of the facility on his/her own; be approached by untrustworthy people who sometimes visit public buildings; or be physically injured. The Norwich Family YMCA is not responsible for the whereabouts of unattended members/guests who are not involved directly with a program. Unattended junior/teen members could be asked to leave if misbehaving, or could be stranded at closing time or during an unexpected closing.

Although the Norwich Family YMCA is a large facility, space is still limited for junior/teen "drop-in" usage. Members enrolled in YMCA programs will have precedent over facility usage. For example, 1 of the 3 gymnasiums will be reserved daily for the participants in our state registered School Age Childcare Program.

ALL Youth members are expected to demonstrate Respect, Responsibility, Caring and Honesty by adhering to the YMCA Code of Conduct.

Membership and program scholarships are available at the YMCA front desk.

We also encourage all parents to update their family and child emergency contact information at the front desk. It is very important that we have current addresses, telephone numbers and emergency contact information on file for all YMCA members.

Adopted by the YMCA Board of Directors, November 15, 2004, Initiated January 1, 2005  
A mended by the YMCA Board of Directors, April 20, 2009, Initiated July 1, 2009.