

Important Note: This Learner Safeguarding Policy forms an integral part of and should be read together with the Learner Profile User Agreement (UA).

1. INTRODUCTION

All staff working with vulnerable adults have a legal duty to work together to protect them from harm or abuse. MOTI prioritizes the safety and protection of all Learners taking part in its services. In order to protect vulnerable adults from harm we will act in accordance with the Cypriot and EU legislation and guidance.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 **Safeguarding** The term “safeguarding” describes the broader preventative and precautionary approach to planning and procedures that are necessary to protect vulnerable adults from any potential harm or damage. Safeguarding means:

- 2.1.1 Protection from abuse and neglect.
- 2.1.2 Promotion of health and development.
- 2.1.3 Ensuring safety and care relating to the environment and activity.
- 2.1.4 Ensuring optimum life chances.

2.2 **‘Vulnerable Adult’** A Vulnerable adult is any person aged 18 or over ‘who is, or may be in need of, community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and who is, or may be, unable to take care of him or herself or protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation’. The list below is not exhaustive but a vulnerable adult may be someone:

- 2.2.1 who is elderly and frail.
- 2.2.2 has a mental impairment.
- 2.2.3 has a physical or sensory disability has a severe physical illness.
- 2.2.4 is a substance misuser or is homeless.
- 2.2.5 has a learning disability.

2.3 **‘Abuse’** is a violation of an individual’s human and civil rights by any other person or persons. Abuse may consist of a single act or repeated acts, abuse may happen intentionally or unintentionally and can take place in any relationship or setting. Examples of abuse that could occur in a learning environment include:

- 2.3.1 Physical abuse – shoving, hitting, slapping.
- 2.3.2 Sexual abuse - involvement in any direct or indirect (e.g. innuendo, pornography) activity against the learner’s will or knowledge.
- 2.3.3 Emotional/psychological abuse e.g. intimidation, bullying or humiliation
Discriminatory abuse e.g. racial, sexual or religious harassment
Financial or material exploitation e.g. coercing money or goods.

- 2.3.4 Institutional abuse e.g. failure to ensure privacy, dignity or uphold individual human and civil rights.
- 2.3.5 Neglect or acts of omission e.g. ignoring physical or medical needs, failure to access appropriate health, social care or educational services, withholding medication.
- 2.4 An '**Abuser**' may be anyone including relatives, friends, professional staff, other Learners and System Users, neighbours, care workers, volunteers, and strangers.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

MOTI is committed to promoting safeguarding through the provision of an inclusive, supportive, and safe environment for its Learners, staff and others closely associated with its work and affirms the rights of individuals to be treated fairly and with respect. MOTI intends to pursue this commitment by:

- 3.1 Promoting a culture of value and respect for all within a supportive and safe learning environment.
- 3.2 Providing Information, training and briefings on safeguarding vulnerable adults.
- 3.3 Gathering and analysing information from Learners on matters related to feeling safe in the learning environment.
- 3.4 Monitoring the effectiveness of this Safeguarding Policy and reviewing it annually.

4. REPORTING AN INCIDENT

After direct or indirect disclosure or signs of abuse are spotted, please immediately inform MOTI with the following information:

- 4.1 What your concerns are.
- 4.2 Where, when, who from and how you got the concerns.
- 4.3 What you have done.
- 4.4 Whether the affected Learner(s) are aware of this referral?

5. HOW TO CONTACT MOTI

- 5.1 You can contact MOTI by post, email or telephone if you have any questions about this Policy or to make a report.
- 5.2 MOTI can be contacted by:
 - 1.1.1 Email: websupport@mysophia.eu
 - 1.1.2 Telephone: +357-22-040220
 - 1.1.3 Post or Physical: Diagoras House, 16 Panteli Katelari Street, 1306, Nicosia, Cyprus