



AT-RISK PERSONS POLICY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. The NMRA does not support youths in the hobby, so I quit.

The NMRA does care for, and support youth and others deemed at-risk, but also recognizes that it has a responsibility to protect those individuals, assure their parents/guardians that there are safeguards in place, and to protect the organization. These are the reasons there are simple requirements in place to protect all groups.

2. Can we still be involved in the Boy Scouts or organizations like 4-H and how do we work that?

Yes, individual members may volunteer in a personal capacity to assist in a youth-oriented activity sponsored by another group if the individual meets any requirements set by that group. The NMRA does not have the resources necessary to do the proper background checks, provide training, and keep records required for such activities, as there are far too many members for this. Groups such as the Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts of America, 4-H, schools, etc. do have those systems in place and are equipped to manage the protections needed.

3. We are not taking any chances, so we are completely pulling out of family and youth activities.

NMRA is taking a prudent path because we cannot guarantee the necessary safeguards will be employed by all parts of the organization, and we do not have the resources to implement them. We do and will still have family-oriented events and programs and memberships that include at-risk individuals, but our programs will not be targeted specifically to at-risk individuals, but to families.

4. How do we grow the NMRA and get “younger” members if we cannot have activities for families?

We should have and certainly welcome more inclusive family activities, encourage family participation, and reinforce the advantages and benefits of family participation in the hobby.



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5. What can we still do and have it be sponsored by an NMRA Region/Division?

An event targeted specifically at-risk individuals cannot be "sponsored" by any NMRA group, and any family-oriented event must adhere to the Policy guidelines. However, individuals can volunteer on a personal level and NMRA groups can provide/donate materials or funds to support activities by other organizations that are directed to at-risk individuals, i.e., Boy/Girl Scouts, 4-H, etc.

6. How come we allow any single adult male or female to join without question, but we will not let younger people in?

The NMRA does let younger people in, as we do offer student and family memberships. The only condition is that the At-Risk Policy is followed. Single adult males or females are legally responsible for their own actions and safety, not the NMRA. The At-Risk Policy provides protection for those individuals below the age of majority and those under the care of a guardian.

7. What about activities aimed at families, where the parents are present 100% of the time? (Three strikes rule still applies.)

If a group is following all the guidelines of the At-Risk Policy, then the "three-visits" policy does not apply to the parent or guardian when accompanying an at-risk member if they are a "passive" attendee and do not actively participate in the activities provided by NMRA members. If they desire to be more active in the NMRA activities, then they can become a member.

8. Why is it ok to target things at adult non-members, but not non-member families?

The only restriction is that NMRA will not undertake or participate in events or activities exclusively for at-risk individuals. We will still target events and activities to families with the appropriate safeguards in place. Adult non-members do not require the protections and safeguards provided by the At-Risk Policy. In addition, the NMRA may support other organizations with materials or funds.

9. Why do we bother with student and family membership categories?

We have student memberships for those at-risk individuals who want to



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participate in NMRA events even if their parents/guardians have no interest. The student can participate in all activities if the parent/guardian follows the Policy guidelines. Family memberships allow everyone in the family to participate in all NMRA activities.

10. This Policy hurts the NMRA and the hobby.

The Policy protects the individual, assures the parents/guardians that there is a safe environment, and protects the NMRA. It helps everyone, actually.

11. If a parent or guardian is present at all times, then what is the issue? This is already the policy at most clubs, 100% or not.

For at-risk persons to be present at any NMRA event, they must have a parent or guardian who always maintains line of sight. If any clubs or groups already implement such a policy, that is quite positive.

12. Are we even allowed to mention the NMRA in connection with any youth programs?

NMRA can be mentioned in a very limited way as long as it is not seen to be a "sponsor" or "organizer" or "host", etc., of an event targeted **exclusively** toward at-risk individuals. NMRA individuals can be identified as personally volunteering to assist and NMRA groups can be identified as providing financial support or donations to the event. In simplest terms, the NMRA is not to be positioned as being the force behind the event.

13. How long is the affidavit good for? Is a new one needed for every event or meeting?

The affidavit is valid until/unless it is revoked by either the Parents/guardians or the NMRA Region or Division.