

**From:** Emps [<mailto:emps-bounces@lists.columbia.edu>] **On Behalf Of** Columbia University Human Resources  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 23, 2014 9:30 AM  
**To:** [emps@lists.columbia.edu](mailto:emps@lists.columbia.edu)  
**Subject:** Protection of Minors at Columbia University

Dear Fellow Members of the Columbia Community:

Although most of our students are 18 years old and older, Columbia University welcomes minors to our campus and to our programs every day. Minors (under the age of 18 in New York State) are part of our academic programs and activities, athletic programs, summer camps, the (K-8) School at Columbia University, volunteer programs, and health care clinics and practices.

We have a legal and moral obligation to protect minors who are participating in our programs or visiting our campus, and we need to act immediately when we reasonably suspect that a minor may be at risk. This letter is a reminder to all members of our community, both in New York City and around the world, of their duty to report suspected cases of child abuse, maltreatment, or other dangers and to provide information about the resources that are available.

Members of the Columbia University community who interact with, supervise, chaperone, or otherwise oversee minors in programs or activities at the University or sponsored by the University, must report immediately if they have reasonable cause to suspect abuse or maltreatment of individuals under the age of 18. [Click here](#) to view the full policy about the Protection of Minors at Columbia.

If you suspect that a minor may have been abused, maltreated or is otherwise in danger, take the following steps:

- If a child is in immediate danger, call 911;
- Call the **New York State Child Abuse & Maltreatment Hotline:** 800-342-3720;

**AND**

- Call the Department of Public Safety: 212-854-5555 (Morningside) or 212-305-7979 (Medical Center).

The [Protection of Minors website](#) highlights a number of resources available to faculty, staff, students and volunteers who work in our programs involving minors. If you need additional information on Protection of Minors, you can also contact [pomtraining@columbia.edu](mailto:pomtraining@columbia.edu).

We must all follow these procedures to ensure that we protect minors who are on our campus and participating in our programs and activities.

Thank you for your careful attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Louis Bellardine  
Vice President  
Columbia University Human Resources