

Child Protection Issues in Supporter Letters

We have strict communication rules to protect our beneficiaries from supporters with bad intentions. Below is a list of Child Protection issues you may find in a supporter letter. Regardless of the sponsor's intent, you should escalate these letters using the same process that you do for any supporter letter containing inappropriate content.

- **Suggesting that the beneficiary visit the supporter or the supporter's country.**

"I wish you lived closer. Maybe you can come to visit me when you have a break from school."

- **References to contact with the child that Compassion does not allow. (Examples include email, social media and phone contact.)**

"I was talking to your brother on Facebook. I have not heard from him recently."

- **Expressions of wanting to kiss, fondle, engage in sexual activity or otherwise inappropriate behavior between adults and children.**

"I took a piece of candy, rubbed it on my lips, and then kissed this letter. It is like a real kiss."

- **Sexualized language, such as calling a beneficiary "sexy," telling a child what to wear in pictures, how to dress if they were to meet or other references that could reasonably be interpreted as having sexual content.**

"I think your brown hair is sexy."

"You looked very attractive in your blue shirt. You should wear that shirt when I visit you on the supporter tour."

- **References that they want to date the beneficiary or have a family member/friend date the beneficiary.**

"I think you would be the perfect boyfriend for my daughter."

- **Directing the child to call the supporter by names usually reserved for parents. (Examples include Dad, Daddy, Papa, Mom, Mommy, Mama.)**

"It is like you are my own child. It would be very special if you called me Daddy."

- **Content that includes multiple/repeated references to loving/being in love with the child in a single letter. (Examples include I love you, I love you so much, repeated multiple times or in places in the letter other than the sign-off.)**

"I love you so much... I will write you many letters, so you know how much I truly love you."

- **Sharing experiences of the supporter's own abuse. (Examples include rape, sexual assault, physical abuse, emotional abuse.) (Note: this is not abusive content but is inappropriate for a sponsor to share with a child.)**

"I recently divorced my husband. He was very abusive and hit me often."

- Suggestions that the supporter will buy the child a specific item or take care of all their needs.

"I will buy you a bike for your birthday."

- Photographs that are sexually suggestive or sexually explicit

Disclosure of Abuse in Child Letters

We encourage beneficiaries to share about their lives. They can share any information that does not break Compassion's communication standards. This means that beneficiaries can share about abuse or other struggles. A disclosure of abuse in a child letter is when a child shares that someone physically or sexually harmed the child, a family member or a friend.

As a Translator, you may be the first person to identify a potential issue. You play a large role in alerting Compassion to the possibility of abuse. You must escalate letters where a child shares about abuse.

Here are some guidelines that will help you decide if you should escalate a letter to the supervisor.

Disclosure of Abuse	Not a Disclosure of Abuse
<p>Reference to: Hitting, Beating, Rape, Molestation</p> <p><i>"Please pray that I can control my temper. I get angry at my siblings. I sometimes start fights. Last week I broke my brother's nose when I hit him."</i></p> <p><i>"I am very sad and angry at God. My uncle often hits my sister and me. I have many bruises. I do not know why God allows him to do this."</i></p> <p><i>"Please pray for me. There are many gangs where I am from. Last week, a couple of guys beat me because I did not want to join their gang."</i></p> <p><i>"I was raped by my neighbor."</i></p> <p><i>"I was molested by my father at the age of 8."</i></p>	<p>References to: Arguments Disagreeing, Expressions of anger or frustration Illness</p> <p><i>"I do not like my teacher at the school. She is very mean."</i></p> <p><i>"Please pray for me. My mom and I have been arguing because I want to live with my dad."</i></p> <p><i>"I am frustrated with my grandmother because she will not go to church with me. I think she would be a nicer person if she knew Jesus and went to church."</i></p> <p><i>"I like going to church. I feel loved there. I do not have any friends at school. The kids at school tease me because I am a Christian."</i></p> <p><i>"I was ill. The doctors said that I could not go to school."</i></p>
Escalate to the Supervisor	Do Not Escalate