

# OSSO Rules and Code of Conduct

The number-one priority of OSSO's rules is to ensure safety among volunteers and children. OSSO's rules are required due to cultural and legal differences between the USA and Latin America, which may lead to safety concerns in some situations. Additionally, each orphanage we work in has their own set of rules in which your volunteer directors will train you.

## SAFETY

Volunteers are prohibited at any time to be outside the volunteer facility alone.

Daytime: When exploring the city or traveling, minimum group size is 2 people.

After dark: No volunteers outside the compound after dark without permission from a Volunteer Director.

Notify OSSO staff of your intended destination(s) before leaving the grounds.

Consumption of alcohol or drugs (including marijuana) is not allowed inside or outside the OSSO compound.

Bar, club or party attendance outside the OSSO compound is not allowed.

Smoking and vaping are not allowed.

Physical, sexual, or verbal abuse of any child, volunteer, director, or orphanage worker is strictly prohibited and will result in immediate dismissal from the program at your own cost.

Reckless actions that put children, staff or volunteers at risk of harm are prohibited.

## DRESS AND GROOMING

The people of Ecuador are conservative in dress and grooming. The dress and grooming (including hairstyles) of volunteers should be modest, neat and clean. Dressing as modestly as the workers in the different orphanages shows respect and strengthens relationships.

Do not wear crop tops, tank tops or off-the-shoulder shirts at any time.

Shorts are not allowed while serving or in public.

Knee-length dresses or skirts are allowed, but not while serving in orphanages.

## RELIGION

While OSSO is aligned with the principles, teachings and values of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we respect different beliefs of volunteers and of the orphanages where we serve. Demeaning or criticizing another's beliefs is not allowed. Proselytizing to advance any religious doctrine or agenda in orphanages is not allowed.

## CONFIDENTIALITY AND PHOTOS

OSSO requires all volunteers to treat each child's personal story and information with the highest respect and confidentiality. No phones or cameras are allowed at shift. In Ecuador it is illegal to photograph the children and residents of orphanages. Any correspondence with children and individuals we serve must be approved by the orphanage staff.

## NO DATING OR SEXUAL RELATIONS

Volunteers are not allowed to date or participate in physical/sexual talk/relationships with their fellow volunteers, directors, staff members, or any local individuals while participating in OSSO's program. Flirting with local Ecuadorians is a safety concern that must be taken seriously and is strictly prohibited. Appropriate physical contact is allowed between those who are married or in an established relationship prior to arrival.

## NON-COMPLIANCE

Due to the importance of ensuring volunteer/child safety and maintaining strong relationships with the orphanages we serve, volunteers who display blatant disregard to these rules will be dismissed from the program and sent home at their own expense.

## Acknowledgment of OSSO Rules of Code of Conduct and Agreement

I hereby acknowledge that I have reviewed and understand the Code of Conduct, as outlined above. I understand the responsibilities, expectations, and guidelines listed, and I agree to abide by them while participating in this program. I commit to upholding the standards and procedures as presented and to act in accordance with Orphanage Support Services Organization's policies. I understand that if I disregard or break OSSO rules I will be dismissed from OSSO's program and sent home at my own expense.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_