

Under 18 Protection Policy

adopted by Newton Conservators Board March 27, 2024

Newton Conservators welcomes and promotes the involvement of minors (under age 18) in our activities for many reasons and wishes to ensure we do so responsibly. The Board has adopted this policy to minimize any risk of a sexual abuse or molestation situation.

Screening of those with contact with minors

Adult leaders of activities in which minors may participate will be screened through the Sex Offender Registry Board (SORB) database, from this webpage:

<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/sex-offender-registry-board>

Any activities potentially including minors that would have been led by anyone positively identified on the registry will be canceled or reassigned to a different screened person.

In-person activities

All walks and activities where a minor could be present must have at least two unrelated adults present, one of whom has been screened.

If a walk leader (such as a non-Board walk leader) has not been screened, the presence of one other screened unrelated adult will allow the walk to proceed, even when a minor is present. Otherwise, if a minor is present the activity will be canceled.

Online interaction (Zoom, email)

To ensure there are no inappropriate interactions, any online meeting with a minor should have a second adult also participating - normally, an additional Board member (ideally who has also been screened), but it could be a parent or guardian. In the event only one adult signs into the meeting, the meeting should be canceled. For email interactions, another Board member should be cc'd.