

# RESPONSE TEAM



## Step 1:

Schools seek considerations from the International Centre Response Team (ICRT) on a child protection concern by completing an encrypted form. Application live November 1, 2019: <https://forms.gle/qYwdhNAozMQfuyu89>



## Step 2:

Applications will be evaluated within 48 hours. Concern is accepted based on a vetting process that prioritizes diverse cases where value can be added and response can be prompt. Applicant will be invited to brief the response team and answer questions in an online, encrypted meeting.



## Step 3:

The anonymized case will be reviewed by participating advisors, including child protection lawyer, crisis communication expert, forensic investigator, child abuse physician, trauma-trained psychologist, educational leader, and law enforcement representative. Team will not know the school or applicant name.



## Step 4:

Applicants receive considerations and advisor contact information following the ICRT case review at no cost. They are requested to complete a feedback survey at a later date to inform team of response outcomes and barriers to any considerations not followed.

Representatives from law enforcement participating in the case review may be obligated to act and ICMEC will inform the applicant directly. All the external advisors are bound by professional obligations of confidentiality. *Details of the anonymized case will remain confidential unless explicit permission is granted by the applicant.*

Any allegation of sexual misconduct should instigate suspension of supervisory responsibilities with children. Child-serving professionals have a duty of care to inform current/future employers of these allegations. This reporting should be discussed with law enforcement, if involved, prior to informing other employers.

School staff should not view or share sexual images of children. Images shared online can be reported to [report.cybertip.org](https://report.cybertip.org). If sexual images of children are part of the case, they should NOT be uploaded as evidence to this form.

## FAQs:

### **Q: Who is eligible to apply?**

A: At this time we are providing the application link only through ITFCP affiliated organizations, regional education associations, and response team training participants. Any school with a US citizen adult or student is eligible to present a case or concern. The applicant can be any staff member or designate tasked with addressing child protection concerns.

### **Q: How do I refer people and how do they apply?**

A: School membership organizations may wish to share this resource and provide the application link. Cases may be referred by the Office of Overseas Schools. Emails will not be considered. The applicant must fill out the encrypted, digital application: <https://forms.gle/BAaDDRUL2xJV1g5W7>

### **Q: How do I know the case will remain confidential?**

A: The form is anonymous and will be vetted by ICMEC admin only. External advisors will not have access to applicant name, school name, or contact information. All participants have a professional obligation and expectation of confidentiality and will be listed on the considerations. Individual cases will not be shared or discussed outside the team review without explicit approval of applicant.

### **Q: Who is on the response team?**

A: There will be a core group of ICMEC and external advisors, however the team will include cultural and topic expertise as required by the case. Typically, the team will include experts on victim centered response, crisis communications, management response and legal response. US law enforcement will be represented on the team. Case considerations do not constitute legal advice or fulfill local mandatory reporting requirements. If law enforcement is obligated to act the applicant will be contacted first.

### **Q: What if I need more help than a list of considerations?**

A: Participating external advisors listed on the considerations may be engaged separately from the pilot. Education Portal resources and links applicable to the case will be provided.

### **Q: How will you use anonymous outcome information from the applicant?**

A: The ICRT seeks to support victim-centered response and adoption of the ITFCP allegation protocol. Identification of barriers and institutional challenges will inform resources and expectations around international school response to child protection concerns.

## INTERNAL ICMEC VETTING PROCESS:

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Vetting criteria:

- If applicant indicates US government employee or dependent is involved and US Department of State has NOT been informed, the applicant will not be able to enter information into the application and will be instructed to inform the US Department of State via local embassy or Regional Education Officer.
- If applicant indicates US government employee or dependent is involved and US Department of State HAS been informed, ICMEC will confirm this through the Office of Overseas Schools before vetting.
- Applicant will be informed in 48 hours whether ICRT considerations will be provided.
- Assisted schools will be prioritized, but any school with a US citizen is eligible for considerations during pilot.
- Priority given to cases where ICRT may 'add value' and the consultant learning is rich - judged by region/country, type of case, complexity, school resources, local resources, etc.
- The aim is for ICRT to consider a diversity of regions and case types during the pilot. Pilot will start in school year 2019-2020 (November 1 start) and last until funding is exhausted.
- Additional regional experts, such as lawyers and possibly counselors will be added as needed. If USG employee or dependent is involved, Office of Overseas Schools will approve external advisors.
- Consultation is via Zoom video conferencing and case forms will be provided to external advisors prior to meeting.
- ICRT external advisors will know country but not applicant or school name.
- Anonymized cases will not be used for any purpose without the explicit permission of the applicant. Applicant contact details will be retained until outcome survey is completed, then deleted.

Considerations form will be approved by ICRT participants and will reflect both divergent opinions and unanimous considerations for response and recovery. Supplemental material may be submitted by any consultant (for example pertinent legal statutes, treatment recommendations, etc.) as an attachment. Application and case discussion is confidential and anonymous.

***All case information is confidential and cannot be used in training without explicit permission obtained from applicant by ICMEC facilitator.***

ICMEC will collect and distribute anonymized outcome information to be shared with team for learning purposes.

Funding will cover team recommendations only. Team members may be retained by schools directly for extended support services arranged and funded outside pilot project.

## RESPONSE TEMPLATE:

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**The opinions issued by the International Centre Response Team (ICRT) should be understood exclusively as technical and professional support for decision making based on the best interests of the child.**

### Important notes:

Representatives from law enforcement participating in the case review may be obligated to act and will contact the school separately in such case. All the external advisors are bound by professional obligations of confidentiality. *The anonymized case will remain confidential unless explicit permission is granted.*

Any allegation of sexual misconduct should instigate suspension of supervisory responsibilities with children. Child-serving professionals have a duty of care to inform current/future employers of these allegations. If law enforcement is involved, this reporting should be discussed with your contact prior to informing other employers to avoid tipping off the accused

School should not view, hold, or share sexual images of children. If images were shared online they can be reported to [report.cybertip.org](https://report.cybertip.org). If sexual images are part of the case, law enforcement should be notified and will advise how to secure evidence.

Schools will receive the initial considerations from the response team pilot at no cost. Considerations are based on the best interests of the child. Applicants will be asked to share anonymized case outcomes and barriers to these considerations via survey link at a later date. Applicants may reach out to individual consultants for assistance beyond the ICRT's considerations at their regular rates.

*The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed herein are those of ICMEC and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Department of State or any other donor. Disclaimer: This document should not be shared beyond the recipient without explicit ICMEC permission. This document is not intended to provide legal guidance or advice. The information contained herein should not be construed as offering legal advice or guidance.*

The expectations the ICRT and of the International Task Force for Child Protection (ITFCP) [Allegation Protocol](#) are based on the following principles:

- All children have equal rights to be protected from harm and abuse.
- Everybody has a responsibility to support the protection of children.
- All schools have a duty of care to children enrolled in the school and those who are affected by the operations of the school.
- All actions on child protection are taken with the best interests of the child, which are paramount.

## ICRT MAJORITY CONSIDERATIONS:

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Institutional response to child protection concerns falls under four categories; legal, child centered, management and communications response. All responses should be taken in support of the best interests of the child.

### Legal Response

1. Consideration 1 – Applicable statutory guidance and links to legal instruments
2. Consideration 2 -
3. Consideration 3 -

### National Law Summary

### Child Centered Response

1. Consideration 1 -
2. Consideration 2 -
3. Consideration 3 -
4. Consideration 4 -

### Management Response

1. Consideration 1 -
2. Consideration 2 -
3. Consideration 3 -
4. Consideration 4 -

### Communications Response

1. Consideration 1 -
2. Consideration 2 -
3. Consideration 3 -
4. Consideration 4 -

Names of participating external advisors (ICRT members who reviewed case):

For more resources and information visit [edportal.icmec.org](https://edportal.icmec.org)

## DIVERGENT CONSIDERATIONS:

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### Legal Dissent

1. Consideration

### Interests of the Child Dissent

1. Consideration

### Management Dissent

1. Consideration

### Communications Dissent

1. Consideration

Name/s of participating external advisor/s with divergent considerations: