



SOCIETY OF OUR CHILDREN OPATIJA  
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## **CODE OF ETHICS OF SOCIETY "OUR CHILDREN" OPATIJA**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Society "Our children" Opatija is a non-profit and non-governmental association that organizes free time for children and young people up to 15 years of age and operates in the territory of the Republic of Croatia. It is a full member of the Association of Societies Our Children of Croatia, the Coordination of Children's Associations, the Eurochild organization, the Child Rights Connect organization and the Netzkraft Movement network.

Through its activities, it contributes to the respect of children's rights on a daily basis and advocates for the improvement of the quality of life of children both in its environment, in the Republic of Croatia and in the world.

This Code of Ethics determines the ethical principles of action and values that guide the members, volunteers and employees of SOC Opatija.

Before joining SOC Opatija, all members and employees of SOC Opatija must familiarize themselves with the Code of Ethics. They all respect the principles of the Code of Ethics and behave in accordance with it.

#### **Vision**

The vision of SOC Opatija is a democratic society focused on children, which understands the rights and needs of children and parents and offers all children the opportunity to develop all their potential and build a world tailored to the child.

#### **Mission**

The mission of SOC Opatija is:

- Advocacy for a better position of children in society and the protection of children's rights and equal opportunities for all children in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,
- Cooperation with the Societies Our children and related associations and organizations through designed and organized actions and activities with children and for children in their free time,
- Supporting children in active participation in the local community, encouraging the local community, institutions and institutions to protect and care for children according to the principle of the best interest of the child,



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- Empowering parents to raise children through programs of education and promotion of responsible and quality parenting,
- Nurturing the tradition of volunteering in SOC Opatija.

## II. VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

### The values and principles we stand for

- Respect for basic human and children's rights, dignity and values of all people.
- Every child has the right to optimal growth and development.
- We are committed to putting children's rights and children's welfare first in our work.
- Children are equal members of society and should be included in decision-making processes.
- Designed and quality spent free time for children with the aim of developing children's self-confidence, talents and social values.
- Raising and educating children and adults based on the principles of tolerance, respect for diversity, non-discrimination and non-violence.
- We believe that information and knowledge must be available and free to all end users, therefore we never charge for our activities and educational materials with the aim of making money, but exceptionally, when this is the only way to achieve it.
- Responsible parenting.
- Promoting and strengthening the value of volunteer work with children and for children in the community.
- Cultivating humane values and working for the common good.
- In our work and actions, we adhere to the principles of environmental protection and sustainability.

**Guided by the best interest of the child, the members of SOC Opatija are ready and commit to:**

### ACTIVITY

To actively contribute to the activities of SOC Opatija, and especially to be active in giving initiatives for the daily improvement of the quality of life of children as well as children with developmental disabilities and their families.

### TOLERANCE

To participate in discussions about problems and ways of solving them, where they will show a willingness to listen to others and a special willingness to listen to other people's arguments with respect when they do not agree with their opinion and generally strive for greater tolerance in relations with other members of SOC Opatija, as well as with all other people, being the first to set an example for such behavior and to sensitize the public to the needs of children and children with developmental disabilities, which will develop public tolerance for all our children.



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### **READINESS FOR TEAMWORK AND COOPERATION**

Adhere to the agreement on the manner of carrying out certain actions, whereby they will not act independently in official contacts and public appearances referring to SOC Opatija without the authorization of persons authorized to represent SOC Opatija.

### **RESPECT FOR OTHERS**

To respect the privacy of each member of the SOC Opatija and to protect the confidentiality of the personal data of other members of the SOC Opatija, i.e. names, surnames, addresses, phone numbers, marital status, economic status, children's diagnoses, as well as all other information of a confidential nature, and in particular undertake not to and cannot publish this information in public appearances, written and pictorial materials without the consent of the member to whom this information relates.

### **EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND OBJECTIVITY IN TEACHING**

Make a special effort to convey to other parents all the information and knowledge about various techniques for helping children with developmental disabilities, as well as information about the rights they have achieved in the field of health, social and other protection.

When, as educators/trainers, they are involved in educational processes or in any type of training, members provide accurate information, present facts and explain phenomena with the highest degree of objectivity, and avoid behaviors that will abuse their position, humiliate or threaten integrity in any way and self-esteem of education participants.

Members do not present other people's ideas and data as their own. Plagiarism is an extreme form of unethical attitude towards someone else's work.

Members do not participate in activities aimed at the manipulation of individuals, groups or public opinion, and in the service of promoting personal interests.

The members of SOC Opatija strive to achieve and maintain a high level of competence in their activities. Aware of the limits of their knowledge and expertise, they provide only those services and use only those techniques for which they are qualified by education or experience. In those areas of activity where reliable professional standards have not been established, they take the necessary precautionary measures.

In contacts with colleagues and other persons, members of SOC Opatija should be patient and correct, always providing true, correct and complete information.

Members of SOC Opatija should keep the working environment in program activities safe, productive and pleasant for all users.

### **VOLUNTEERING**

Volunteering is an advantage for society as a whole and for individual volunteers because it strengthens feelings of trust, solidarity and reciprocity among citizens and creates opportunities for active participation. Through its activities and programs, SOC Opatija



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continuously contributes to the development of the system of values for the common good through the education system and introduces children and young people to the values of volunteering.

Volunteers get involved in the work of SOC Opatija to the extent that it suits them and are aware of their responsibility for the duties they have assumed. If for some reason they are prevented from fulfilling their duties conscientiously within a reasonable time, they are expected to inform the volunteer coordinator in the association.

We value every volunteer work equally, regardless of the number of volunteer hours invested, membership status or position in SOC Opatija. We approach volunteer work seriously and conscientiously and therefore strive to raise the quality of our work and the services we provide to users. At the same time, we take care that the top organization is not an end in itself.

### **ALTRUISM AND REALIZATION OF IDEALS IN PRACTICE**

Advocating at every opportunity for the right of integration of every child, regardless of race, gender, language, social and economic origin, religion, including children with developmental disabilities and children with special needs, in the natural environment, as well as for freedom of choice the person himself or his parents, and point out the right, need and justification for the integration of children and persons with developmental disabilities and try to involve as many people as possible in personal contact with them.

Accepting the stated obligations as the minimum rules that every member of the SOC Opatija must adhere to, the members commit themselves to the effort to show their activity, tolerance, selflessness, patience, readiness for teamwork, agreement, respect for others, and especially the warmth and love they feel for their they take their children and their family out of the SOC Opatija and into every life situation in which they will find themselves.

The Code of Ethics is periodically revised, amended and supplemented by the Executive Board as necessary.

If, within the framework of a certain project or activity, due to specificity, there is a need to define the activity at the proposal of the manager, the Executive Board adopts the project's Code of Ethics, which is in accordance with this.

In case of non-compliance with the code of ethics, the member may be warned, and for more serious violations of this code, may be expelled from SOC Opatija, which is decided by the executive board.

The code of ethics comes into force on the day of its adoption.

In Opatija, 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2020