



SAFEGUARDING FOR EQUESTRIANS

Case Study 1: Daniel

Facts of the case

- You are a coach, attending a training event where you are one of the coaches.
- In the warm-up, you observe a parent (Adam) who is very frustrated with their child (Daniel, 8). Adam grabs Daniel's arm and marches them towards their pony, exclaiming about how much money they have invested in the pony and the child's training. Daniel is crying.
- Someone next to you comments that Daniel has been a nightmare today, refusing to take part in activities with the other children.

Q: How should you respond?

Recognise: What warning signs are there here? Know what to look out for.

Respond: Use active listening and open questions. Remain calm and do not share personal opinions.

Record: Record the facts, your concerns, and any action taken in writing.

Report: Consider confidentiality at all times. Pass relevant information to relevant people.

Questions to consider:

- How can you prevent this situation from escalating?
- Have you got all the information you need? What conversations would you want to have with Adam and Daniel?
- Depending on what you learn, what might your next steps be?
- Who do you need to tell about this incident?



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Case Study 2: Betty

Facts of the case

- You are a parent attending a show with your child, Amara. You take Amara (14) for lunch after the competition, and one of her friends, Betty (15), comes over to join you.
- Betty excitedly tells Amara that she has been staying at the showground in her coach's fancy new lorry because her Mum is away with work. As the two girls go to fetch their food from the trade stand, you overhear Betty invite Amara to come over later because her coach, Mark, "has some wine in the lorry".

Q: How should you respond?

Recognise: What warning signs are there here? Know what to look out for.

Respond: Use active listening and open questions. Remain calm and do not share personal opinion.

Record: Record the facts, your concerns, and any action taken in writing.

Report: Consider confidentiality at all times. Pass relevant information to relevant people.

Questions to consider:

- Have you got all the information needed?
- Who do you need to speak to?
- What steps need to be taken to protect Betty?
- What do we need to know about Mark's perspective?
- Are any referrals required?



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Case Study 3: Claire

Facts of the case

- You are the proprietor of a competition yard. You receive reports from a member of your staff that Claire (16), a groom working on your yard, has recently started bullying other staff and livery owners and creating a toxic atmosphere.
- Devina, the mother of one of your liveries, then reports that Claire has been posting threatening messages on social media. Devina says she found her daughter crying and not wanting to go to the yard because of it. Devina shows you the Instagram messages, but cannot show you Snapchat.

Q: How should you respond?

Recognise: What warning signs are there here? Know what to look out for.

Respond: Use active listening and open questions. Remain calm and do not share personal opinions.

Record: Record the facts, your concerns, and any action taken in writing.

Report: Consider confidentiality at all times. Pass relevant information to relevant people.

Questions to consider:

- What information do you need about the in-person and online behaviours?
- Depending on what you learn, what types of abuse are involved?
- Who do you need to make aware of the case?
- What might Claire need from you?
- What might the rest of the yard need?



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Case Study 4: Layla

Facts of the case

- You are the regular Show Organiser. The parents of one of your competitors (Layla, 15) have contacted you to say that their daughter has told them that one of your other competitors and volunteers (Kayden, 19) has repeatedly raped her.
- The parents explain that this happened for the first time two years ago. Kayden had abused Layla, even though she had told him she did not want to.
- Earlier this week some of Layla's friends were chatting about boys and relationships. Layla was shocked when they said that if a boy had sex with someone when they did not want to, then that was rape. Layla did not know that.
- The parents are concerned that other girls may be at risk or have had the same experience as Layla.

Q: How should you respond?

Recognise: What type of abuse is this?

Respond: Use active listening and open questions. Remain calm and do not share personal opinions.

Record: Record the facts, your concerns, and any action taken in writing.

Report: Consider confidentiality at all times. Pass relevant information to relevant people.

Questions to consider:

- What referrals need to take place?
- What support needs to be put in place?
- Whose viewpoints do you need to consider when making a plan?
- What statutory agencies need to be spoken to?



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Case Study 5: Irene

Facts of the case

- You are the Safeguarding Officer at a carriage driving club.
- Club members report that they are concerned about carriage driver Irene (92), who continues to compete, receiving significant support from her groom (Zuri, 31). The other members are concerned about Irene's state of mind, and report that she is physically very frail.
- When you speak to Irene she responds that the other members of the group "can't cope with her being a bit dotty". She is adamant she does not need any external help.

Q: How should you respond?

Recognise: What warning signs are there here?

Respond: Use active listening and open questions. Remain calm and do not share personal opinions.

Record: Record the facts, your concerns, and any action taken in writing.

Report: Consider confidentiality at all times. Pass relevant information to relevant people.

Questions to consider:

- What and who is at risk?
- What do you need to consider about consent?
- What information do you need?
- Who do you need to speak to?
- What can be done to support Irene?



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Case Study 6: Emma

Facts of the case

- You are the parent of a child who is competing this weekend. You will also be a volunteer at the event as a steward.
- When attending a training event a few days prior to the competition, you notice one of the children (Emma, 10) has her arm bandaged under her coat. She is wincing whenever she moves her arm.
- Emma's Mum, Gwen, notices you looking. Gwen says that Emma had a small fall a few days ago but is fine to carry on as normal, and Emma "could not bear" to miss out on competing. Emma does not seem comfortable, and you feel uneasy about this.

Q: What should you do next?

Recognise: What warning signs are there here?

Respond: Use active listening and open questions. Remain calm and do not share personal opinions.

Record: Record the facts, your concerns, and any action taken in writing.

Report: Consider confidentiality at all times. Pass relevant information to relevant people.

Questions to consider:

- What sort of questions should you ask, to whom?
- What should you do about referrals?
- What needs to happen to make sure Emma is okay?



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Case Study 7: George

Facts of the case

- You are the yard manager at a riding school. During a lesson, one of your coaches (Asha, 24) asks a volunteer (Imogen, 19) to escort a student (George, 11) to the office so that he can calm down.
- George has been very disruptive during the lesson, becoming frustrated and striking his pony in an unacceptable manner.
- The following day, you receive a report from one of your grooms (Ellie, 18) saying that they saw Imogen “clip George around the ear” on the way to the office, telling him to never let her see him treat a pony like that again.

Q: What should you do next?

Recognise: What warning signs are there here?

Respond: Use active listening and open questions. Remain calm and do not share personal opinions.

Record: Record the facts, your concerns, and any action taken in writing.

Report: Consider confidentiality at all times. Pass relevant information to relevant people.

Questions to consider:

- What abuse is involved?
- Who is in a position of trust?
- Who do you need to hear from?
- What referrals need to be made?
- How do you address the behaviour towards the pony?



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Case Study 8: Misha

Facts of the case

- You are the Chair of a riding club. A group of parents have contacted you about a coach (Misha, 24) that the club is using.
- The parents tell you that Misha has set up a Whatsapp group with some children to run private training sessions for “his most talented students”.
- You remember that last year Misha was spoken to about bringing alcohol into a camp. He said it was just for him, even though the club rules banned alcohol at camps.
- Earlier this year you had received complaints about the language that Misha was using around children. He was spoken to again and said that he was in a stable at the time and did not realise there were children around.

Q: What should you do next?

Recognise: What warning signs are there here?

Respond: Use active listening and open questions. Remain calm and do not share personal opinions.

Record: Record the facts, your concerns, and any action taken in writing.

Report: Consider confidentiality at all times. Pass relevant information to relevant people.

Questions to consider:

- What questions do you need to be asking, of whom?
- What codes/policies can you turn to?
- Who do you need to make aware?
- What sanctions may apply?



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Case Study 9: Annie

Facts of the case

- You are a volunteer at a local competition, helping in the collecting ring as a steward.
- A parent approaches you and explains that they have seen a suspicious individual taking photos of the competitors leaving the arena, including taking photos of multiple children.
- They point out the individual, whom you recognise as Annie. Annie is a retired former steward who still attends competitions occasionally as a member of the public.

Q: What should you do next?

Recognise: What warning signs are there here?

Respond: Use active listening and open questions. Remain calm and do not share personal opinions.

Record: Record the facts, your concerns, and any action taken in writing.

Report: Consider confidentiality at all times. Pass relevant information to relevant people.

Questions to consider:

- What codes or policies might be relevant?
- What might be the risks?
- Who do you need to speak to?



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Case Study 10: Amelia

Facts of the case

- You are a freelance coach teaching lessons at a livery yard.
- As you fetch yourself a cup of tea from the kitchen, you bump into one of your students (Amelia, 14) who seems distressed. She tells you that she has been “seeing” one of the grooms (Freddie, 18).
- Amelia shares that her friend overheard Freddie laughing on the phone and promising to send a nude photo that Freddie had of Amelia to whoever he was talking to.
- Amelia is now scared that her parents are going to find out, and she will not be allowed to come to the yard anymore.

Q: What should you do next?

Recognise: What are the issues to address here?

Respond: Use active listening and open questions. Remain calm and do not share personal opinions.

Record: Record the facts, your concerns, and any action taken in writing.

Report: Consider confidentiality at all times. Pass relevant information to relevant people.

Questions to consider:

- How should you handle the disclosure?
- What is the law around this issue?
- Who should you be speaking to?
- What are your reporting and referral obligations?