



# Safeguarding Adults Policy

## Introduction

Northern Hunters UK is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and supportive environment for all individuals who participate in our investigations and activities. While our work is strictly limited to individuals aged 18 and over, we recognise our responsibility to safeguard adults, particularly those who may be vulnerable or at increased risk of harm.

We understand that paranormal investigations can present unique environments, both physically and psychologically, and we are committed to ensuring that all individuals are treated with dignity, respect, and consideration at all times.

This policy outlines how Northern Hunters UK promotes safeguarding, prevents harm, and responds to concerns in accordance with best practice guidance for safeguarding adults.

## Our Approach to Safeguarding

Safeguarding is embedded within the culture of Northern Hunters UK. We take a proactive approach to ensuring that all individuals feel safe, supported, and able to participate without fear of harm, harassment, or exploitation.

We recognise that safeguarding extends beyond physical safety and includes emotional and psychological wellbeing. Given the nature of paranormal investigations, individuals may experience fear, anxiety, or distress, and it is essential that these experiences are managed sensitively and responsibly.

Our approach is based on awareness, prevention, and appropriate response.

## **Scope of the Policy**

This policy applies to all Northern Hunters UK activities, including investigations, events, and any associated interactions.

It applies to:

- Team members and volunteers
- Participants and guests
- Any individuals present during Northern Hunters UK activities

Although our activities are restricted to adults, this policy acknowledges that some individuals may be vulnerable due to personal circumstances, health conditions, or situational factors.

## **Responsibilities**

Northern Hunters UK retains overall responsibility for safeguarding within its activities. This includes ensuring that appropriate measures are in place, that concerns are taken seriously, and that action is taken where necessary.

Those leading investigations or events are responsible for maintaining a safe environment on the ground. This includes being alert to signs of distress, responding appropriately to concerns, and ensuring that individuals are supported where needed.

All team members share responsibility for safeguarding and are expected to act in a way that promotes the safety and wellbeing of others. This includes maintaining appropriate boundaries, behaving respectfully, and raising any concerns without delay.

## **Recognising Safeguarding Concerns**

Safeguarding concerns may arise in a number of ways, including through behaviour, communication, or visible distress. Individuals may appear anxious, overwhelmed, withdrawn, or physically unwell.

Northern Hunters UK recognises that the environments in which we operate can heighten emotional responses. It is important that such situations are approached with sensitivity and without judgement.

Any concern, regardless of how minor it may seem, should be taken seriously and acted upon appropriately.

## **Responding to Concerns**

Where a safeguarding concern is identified, Northern Hunters UK will respond in a calm, respectful, and proportionate manner.

This may include:

- Removing the individual from the situation
- Providing reassurance and support
- Ensuring the individual is not left alone
- Escalating the concern where appropriate

In situations where there is a risk of harm, appropriate action will be taken to ensure the safety of the individual, which may include contacting emergency services.

## **Behaviour and Boundaries**

Maintaining appropriate behaviour and boundaries is essential to safeguarding.

Northern Hunters UK expects all individuals to behave in a respectful and professional manner. Harassment, intimidation, discrimination, or any form of inappropriate conduct will not be tolerated.

Clear boundaries must be maintained at all times, particularly in situations where individuals may feel vulnerable or distressed.

## **Reporting and Accountability**

All safeguarding concerns must be reported as soon as possible to a senior member of the team or investigation lead.

Northern Hunters UK is committed to ensuring that concerns are taken seriously, handled sensitively, and addressed appropriately. Where necessary, further action will be taken to prevent recurrence and protect those involved.

## **Creating a Safe Environment**

Northern Hunters UK aims to create an environment in which individuals feel comfortable, respected, and supported.

This includes:

- Clear communication
- Calm and controlled investigations
- Awareness of individual needs
- A supportive and inclusive atmosphere

Safeguarding is not treated as a separate function but as an integral part of how we operate.

## **Review of Policy**

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains effective, relevant, and aligned with best practice.