Seven (7) Basic Ways to Avoid Being Accused of Negligence at 4-H Camp

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**Pay attention to your campers**
- Your primary purpose is camper supervision
- Focus on campers rather than focusing on your friends
- Listen to campers’ concerns and needs
- Know WHO your campers are (learn your campers’ names, interests, concerns, fears, etc.)
- Know WHERE you campers are (check roll, use a buddy system, etc.)

**Never get into a one-on-one situation**
- Follow the “above suspicion” policy by staying in groups of 3 or more at all times
- Help other volunteers avoid one-on-one situations

**Never lose your cool**
- Don’t yell or scream at campers
- Never allow other 4-H campers to yell at, taunt, tease, or bully one another
- If you have to place your hands on a child (for example, breaking up a fight), use the least amount of force necessary to keep the campers from hurting themselves or others.

**Know your 4-H Center’s emergency procedures**
- Where to go if there is a fire in your cabin/lodge
- What to do if a severe thunderstorm occurs
- Your role if a camper becomes missing
- Your role if one of your campers is injured
- Your role in reporting child abuse and neglect if a camper discloses to you

**Follow the 4-H Code-of-Conduct**
- Read, learn, and follow the 4-H Code-of-Conduct (alcohol/drugs, smoking, firearms/knives, profanity, child abuse, cell-phone use, etc)
- Remind your campers of camp rules
- Confront campers who break camp rules
- If you see or hear bullying- STOP IT! (name calling, teasing, physical bullying, taunting, etc.)

**Manage your campers well (but don’t abuse your authority)**
- Be consistent with your expectations
- Don’t allow campers to break camp rules
- Use approved forms of discipline and behavior management (for example, a “time-out” (one minute for every year in age) may be appropriate)- check with your 4-H Agent
- Never take away camp privileges unless approved by your 4-H Agent

**Be aware of your words and actions**
- Camp isn’t the place for dirty jokes, conversations about sex, conversations about your relationships, remarks about someone else’s body, hurtful remarks, teasing, etc.
- Camp isn’t the place for flirting, suggestive body language, intimidating/coercive behaviors
- Remember that “4-H camp words” and “4-H camp behavior” apply at all times! (If you wouldn’t say or do something around your mother and grandmother, then you shouldn’t say or do it around others at camp.)