

Safety note

Safety of our children is the most important concern to all of us. So how do we ensure nothing bad happens?

The short answer is, EO cannot ensure the safety of your families. It is exclusively up to the families involved to assume responsibility for their respective children, families and companies.

It is recommended you and your children read about youth exchange. Numerous experiences and recommendations have been published on that subject matter. Also, do read about the country you are about to visit, about its customs and risks. The best way to confront risk is to be prepared.

Please read the following considerations carefully.

1. Types of risk

There are numerous types of risk that can impact negatively any youth exchange experience, e.g.

- Child abuse
- Theft by a child visiting
- Security risk because the host family or visiting child is very wealthy or prominent
- Geo-political risks (hostility towards a certain nation, faith or race, civil war, high crime rate in the host country etc.)
- Being naive or unused to what is normal/safe in a given country (e.g. girl walking alone at night in Bordeaux is not the same thing than girl walking alone at night in Paris' northern suburbs)
- Disrespect for anyone's culture, faith or personality
- Or, quite simply, a host family and a child not getting along well

There is an endless list of risks for the child visiting but also for any family or company hosting a foreigner.

Most importantly, the definition of „risk“ is an extremely subjective matter. What is right or safe for one family or culture may not be right or secure for another.

2. EO's role and responsibility

EO is not assuming any responsibility for the safety of anyone!

The role of EO is to offer a market place in which adolescents desiring to discover the world and gain an international experience can find EO families, who are accepting to host a child of another EO family in their home or company.

It is exclusively up to the families involved to assume responsibility for their respective companies, families and children. EO members participating in EO Youth Exchange as hosts or visitors must not assume anyone has done any due diligence on their behalf.

Why is EO not assuming any responsibility?

1. Safety is subjective and everyone has different needs or levels of comfort.
2. As an organization, EO has no means to check and follow-up on matters of safety or trust.
3. Any hint, that EO might do so would create a false impression of safety. That becomes the real risk then.

3. Procedures within EO

EO does not have any procedures in place to check the offers posted on EOYX.org or to perform any type of background checks of individuals or companies interacting on EOYX.com.

Having said that, EO believes EO Youth Exchange is still worth exploring:

- a. The program is limited to EO members and their families.
- b. All participants who have registered under EOYX.org have agreed legally to abide by the EO Youth Exchange Rules of Engagement (see „Rules of Engagement“).
- c. Within the EO network, members have all means to perform themselves an inquiry about any other family, e.g. by contacting members they know in the same chapter.

EO will not get involved in any sort of inquiry aimed at ensuring a host family is suited to host children from other EO families. Also, EO will not get involved in any sort of moral or other test relating to the companies offering internships, for example whether the company is in an acceptable field of business, conducts business in a way acceptable ethically or whether its offices are located in a safe area.

Please contact EO Youth Exchange at contact@eoyx.org if you have any question or if you would like to make any recommendations to change or amend this document.