

LiveBeyond Code of Conduct

As LiveBeyond works in Haiti, it is incumbent upon the mission teams to be culturally sensitive to their Haitian hosts. At all times, we want to present ourselves in a way that is well received by everyone with whom we have contact. American behavior, dress and attitudes are under constant scrutiny by the Haitians. As a result, we know that we must increase our level of sensitivity in order to allow our work to be accomplished and our message to be heard without distraction.

There are several American customs that are not well received in the Haiti. In fact, many American customs are closely associated with voodoo culture. Although Haiti is only a short distance from the U.S., the cultural differences are a world apart, especially in the countryside region of Thomazeau. Quite often, good hearted, but uninformed mission team members come to Haiti and quite unwittingly create stumbling blocks for Haitians who are trying to escape the practice of voodoo. The result is that those who come with the intention to serve inadvertently do immeasurable damage.

Many of our requirements may appear unnecessary while in the States, but out of a need to be culturally sensitive and spiritually thoughtful.

- In serving alongside LiveBeyond in foreign countries, go as a servant disciple of Jesus Christ and maintain this servant attitude.
- Accept and submit to the authority of the LiveBeyond leadership and promise to abide by leadership decisions.
- At all times, it is important to be affirming of LiveBeyond and the organizations with which we work. Upholding the good name and reputation of LiveBeyond is a high priority. Never make any disparaging comments regarding individuals or the organization. Belittling words, gossip and complaining are extraordinarily damaging and must be completely avoided.
- In all conversations with locals or co-workers, one must refrain from meddling, complaining and using obscene or insensitive humor. Also, abstain from making derogatory comments or getting involved in arguments regarding people, politics, sports, religion, race or traditions.
- We strive to “avoid the very appearance of evil.” For this reason, we require all LiveBeyond associates, while in a foreign country, to abstain from tobacco, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, bars, discos, nightclubs, or anything else of this manner. LiveBeyond has a zero tolerance policy regarding this issue.
- **All** tattoos must be completely covered whenever one is outside the doors of the guesthouse.
- All body piercings must be removed with the exception of 1 earring per ear for females. None allowed for males.
- Refrain from getting any body piercing, tattoos, etc. while serving outside the U.S. with LiveBeyond.
- No dark or bright fingernail/toenail polish may be worn. Soft pink is acceptable.
- Unnatural hair colors must be covered by a headscarf whenever one is outside the doors of the guesthouse. (Headscarf must be non-red in color.)

- If females have shaved heads or partially shaved heads, a headscarf must be worn whenever one is outside the doors of the guesthouse. (Headscarf must be non-red in color.)
- There can be no displays of affection or any physical contact that implies a relationship between unmarried couples.
- Refrain from giving gifts, such as money, clothes, jewelry, books, iPods, etc. Although the intent is good, the results can cause problems and jealousy amongst the locals. If you feel compelled to give a gift to someone, consult first with a LiveBeyond Officer before you promise or give the gift, and abide by the decision.
- Refrain from having conversations with locals agreeing to sponsor someone for citizenship or offering to help with logistics or financial assistance in coming to the United States.
- We endeavor to respect the culture, structures and customs of the communities and countries in which we are working. It is the LiveBeyond policy to be culturally sensitive and appropriately modest in dress and actions.
- All significant financial expenditures (in excess of \$50) must receive prior approval by a LiveBeyond Officer. Receipts must be kept and proper accounting of all expenses must be made in a timely and efficient manner.
- When driving in a foreign country, one must be in possession of an international drivers' license. A working cell phone, a copy of one's U.S. license & a copy of one's U.S. passport should be with the driver also. Local speed limits must never be exceeded and drivers must use extreme caution. Do not give rides to non-LiveBeyond associates. When driving after dark, speed must be reduced. If you get a traffic citation, you are responsible for paying it. Americans involved in traffic accidents are often jailed with dire consequences.
- Each worker must feel liable for him/herself. If you are responsible for breaking or damaging an item, you are responsible for restitution.

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Child Protection Policy

1. Treat all children equally. Do not discriminate against, show differential treatment or favor particular children to the exclusion of others.
2. Do not give gifts to just one or two of the children. If you want to give gifts, ask the LiveBeyond staff to help you plan the best way to do so.
3. Children generally love having their picture taken, but please ask their permission before taking a picture.
4. Do not act in ways intended to shame, humiliate, belittle, or degrade children, or otherwise perpetrate any form of emotional abuse.
5. Do not develop physical/sexual relationships with children.
6. Do not develop relationships with children that could in any way be deemed exploitive or abusive.
7. Maintain appropriate boundaries with the children. Refrain from any behavior that might be confusing to the child (such as dancing in a suggestive manner).
8. The volunteer is always considered to be responsible for maintaining an appropriate relationship, even if a child behaves inappropriately. Volunteers should not place themselves in compromising or vulnerable positions. (Be aware of the children who, because of circumstances and abuses they may have experienced, may use a relationship to obtain “special attention.”)
9. Do not hit, physically assault or physically abuse children.
10. Do not condone or participate in behavior of children that is illegal, unsafe or abusive.
11. Do not take a child or children into a private place out of view of other adults. Where possible, implement the practical use of the “two-adult” rule.
12. Inappropriate behavior towards children is grounds for immediate dismissal from volunteer programs/
13. If you witness or are concerned about abuse or any inappropriate conduct, report this to a LiveBeyond Officer. Do not discuss it with others.

I acknowledge that I understand and agree to abide by the Code of Conduct and Child Protection Policy for the duration of my association with Mobile Medical Disaster Relief/Live Beyond.

I also understand that failure to comply with the Code of Conduct and Child Protection Policy may result in immediate dismissal from association with Mobile Medical Disaster Relief/Live Beyond.