LAW
Legal Action Worldwide

Organisations | Checklist

LEGAL RESPONSE TO CRITICAL INCIDENTS

Report to the authorities

Depending on the area and country where you operate, the police and other emergency services can be the first point of contact. Reporting the incident not only informs the local authorities but sets up a record that can be later used in legal proceedings. Maintain a record of all communications with the police or local authorities.

Document

Save and store securely as much information as possible on the incident (see Checklist – Documentation for future legal action). Take notes of everything you store, where, when and who is involved.

- Store all information in its original format and restrict the access.
- Record all information, documents, statements, photos, videos with their metadata.
- Do not conduct in-depth interviews if not trained to do so.
- If safe to do so and with their consent, preserve contact information of witnesses.

Seek legal advice

An appropriate lawyer, generally specialised in criminal law, will provide advice and, if required, representation before judicial bodies. They support the establishment of a legal strategy, help assess the risks against the potential benefits, explain the applicable law and legal process.

Legal advice is essential if there is any threat of detention and/or litigation.

Conduct a risk assessment for legal action

Aid workers, their families, a lawyer, security advisor, and other relevant stakeholders depending on the incident must be consulted to support decision-making regarding whether to take legal action or not. *(See Checklist – Risk assessment for legal action).*

Take Action

Consult victims, witnesses and staff members on their expectations.

Seek assistance from Protect Aid Workers, and request support including legal advice on accountability strategies and advice on psychosocial support and best practices.

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PROTECT AID WORKERS

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