

## **OSSO'S RULES AND POLICIES**

On the application, you'll be required to sign saying you've read all applicable information on the website related to OSSO's short-term volunteer program and agree to all terms and conditions set forth by OSSO and agree to live according to OSSO's Code of Conduct, rules and policies—including those about taking pictures, about confidentiality and about the internet (which you need to read thoroughly).

The rules are designed to ensure your safety and security as well as the security and wellbeing of the children and the program. The Code of Conduct and all rules and policies are very important and you'll be held accountable for knowing the information contained in them:

[www.orphanagesupport.org/volprogram.html#rules](http://www.orphanagesupport.org/volprogram.html#rules).

Why do you have a Code of Conduct and why such strict rules? There are several reasons for that:

1. Most of the orphanages are run by nuns and they try to instill a very conservative set of values in the children. They do not want people who provide examples contrary to their teachings working with the children.
2. Most of our short-term volunteers stay in OSSO's house with our Project Directors and their family, as well as with our long-term volunteers. Our Project Directors and the majority of our long-term volunteers also have strict religious values (most, if not all, are members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Mormons). They won't feel comfortable inviting people into their home that won't respect their conservative values.
3. Ecuador is a relatively safe country if you know how to be careful and what to watch out for. Unfortunately, the cultural differences are such that the patterns of behavior you may be used to at home are not adequate to keep you safe in this new environment. Some of our rules are intended to keep you safe in this new unfamiliar culture.
4. Each orphanage has very specific rules about taking pictures/video. Ecuadorian law makes it illegal to put pictures of children from orphanages in a public spot, like the internet, without specific permission from the orphanages.

We don't expect you to become a nun or a Mormon to serve with us, although for the short time you stay with us we do expect you to almost live like one. We do ask that you look closely at our rules in our Code of Conduct and other rules and policies—including those about taking pictures, about confidentiality and about the internet. If they make you uncomfortable, perhaps we're not the service opportunity you're looking for. Exceptions can be made to some aspects of our Code of Conduct for special circumstances. Unless we have approved an exception, plan on keeping all of these rules. We can be somewhat flexible, for example, if you can't quit smoking to serve with us, at least smoke discreetly outside.

If you decide to stay in a hotel, instead of at OSSO's house, you're still required to live by OSSO's rules while in OSSO's house, in the orphanages, or with any of the orphanage children or OSSO's long-term volunteers.