

Sixth Sense - Awareness Architecture

Sixth Sense is a non-profit organization inspired by the ten principles of Burning Man, plus consent, that acts through educational workshops, support for arts and artists, and the creation of an inclusive and open-minded community.

Sixth Sense is committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and hedonistic environment where guests can freely explore sensorial experiences, including intimacy. Key to this is ensuring safety at all times and using the right terminology to accurately assess roles and accountability in any incidents that may arise.

Our color code system helps us quickly categorize incidents and respond promptly with the necessary resources. From light incidents to more serious ones, our awareness team is always prepared to handle any situation with professionalism and care.

In cases of severe violations of consent, our awareness team follows a strict protocol that may involve forming an awareness council to gather factual data and facilitate reconciliation between parties. Exclusions from events may also occur if necessary, to promote a better understanding of behaviors that led to the exclusion.

Terminology

Terminology plays a significant role in how we understand and assess different situations and the way we think. Therefore to ensure fairness to all parties involved at different stages, the right terminology is crucial.

Using the right terminology is essential to avoid introducing biases and promote fairness for everyone involved. By ensuring clarity in our language, we can uphold accountability and promote a just environment for all parties throughout various stages.

Reporter

The term "Reporter" refers to the individual who initially reports an incident, whether they are directly involved as the subject of a violation or simply a bystander. It is important to note that when an incident is reported, we must maintain an open mindset and refrain from assuming the roles of offender and victim until all facts are gathered and understood.

Reported

On the other hand, the term "Reported" is used to identify the individual who has been reported upon about an incident.

Victim

When we refer to a "Victim," we are acknowledging a person who has experienced a violation of consent. This term highlights the impact of actions that have crossed boundaries or compromised the safety of an individual.

Offender

Conversely, an "Offender" is someone who has perpetrated a violation of consent, taking responsibility for their actions that have harmed or disrespected another person's boundaries.

Violation of Consent

"Violation of Consent" denotes an act that infringes upon the boundaries or safety of an individual, emphasizing the importance of respecting personal boundaries and autonomy.

By adhering to clear and precise terminology, we can foster a safe and unbiased environment where accountability is upheld, and all individuals are treated with respect and fairness.

Color Codes

The color code system is a vital tool we utilize to swiftly categorize incidents among guests at events. The main goal is to ensure a prompt response and provide the necessary resources for the situation at hand, ultimately enhancing safety for everyone involved.

This allows us to have consistent, predictable handling which increases safety for all.

Green

Code Green represents minor incidents where communication between parties remains positive and solutions are easily found. In such cases, the involvement of our awareness team is minimal.

Orange

Code Orange signals an incident that requires some effort from our awareness team to facilitate resolution. Although parties agree on the issue and manifest a genuine interest in resolving it amicably, they may need extra care. It is advisable to relocate both parties to a quiet area for a chance to recalibrate and potentially reconcile.

Red

Code Red indicates a situation where parties cannot reach an agreement on-site. This scenario necessitates a post-event investigation and reconciliation process, as one or both parties might need to leave the venue. Our awareness team will engage in a thorough investigation and reconciliation process in the days following the event.

Black

Code Black is reserved for emergencies where the safety of guests is at immediate risk, either due to intentional actions or intoxication. In these critical situations, security or competent authorities must be swiftly contacted to handle the event. Our awareness team will initiate an investigation in the aftermath.

GDPR Compliance

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a legal framework that sets guidelines for the collection and processing of personal information of individuals within the European

Union (EU). As Sixth Sense operates within the EU, we must adhere to these regulations to protect the privacy and rights of our guests.

Data Collection

When collecting personal data from guests, we must ensure that it is done lawfully, transparently, and for a specific purpose. This includes obtaining explicit consent from individuals before processing their data and clearly stating the purpose for which the data is being collected.

When receiving a report in written form, it is vital to ensure to obtaining consent for the reporter. The necessary following step is to contact the reported parties and ensure the same. This is to ensure that all parties involved are aware of the data processing and have given their consent.

When a report is received at an event, it is crucial to notify the reporter that the incident will be documented in writing, followed by the aforementioned procedures.

Data Processing

Data processing should be conducted with measures in place to uphold the security and confidentiality of personal information. Parties involved in an incident should be informed about those handling their data and retain the right to access, rectify, or erase their data if necessary.

Refusal of Consent

If an individual declines to provide consent for their data to be processed, their decision must be respected. This may limit our ability to investigate incidents or provide support. As a safety measure, the aforementioned individuals may not be allowed to attend future events.

Awareness Council

The Awareness Council plays a crucial role within our team in addressing sensitive and serious incidents reported during Sixth Sense events. When a code red or code black is reported, the Council is convened, comprising three experienced members from our Awareness Team.

The primary responsibility of the Council is to gather factual information about the incident and ascertain whether the reported individual has experienced a violation of consent, potentially involving one or more offenders.

Instances classified as code black often lead to severe penalties, barring individuals from attending future events. In these cases, authorities may already be involved, and participation in Sixth Sense events is suspended until legal proceedings are resolved.

Dealing with code red cases is particularly challenging and demands extensive efforts from our Awareness Team. These situations typically arise when parties are unable or unwilling to engage in a reconciliatory meeting.

If a reconciliatory meeting is feasible, it involves the three Council members and the individuals involved in the incident. Participants may bring a friend or supporter to advocate on their behalf if needed. In the absence of a designated advocate, our team will assist.

The purpose of the reconciliatory meeting is to facilitate acknowledgment of factual information and emotional impacts related to the incident. Ideally, if there is an offender, they should acknowledge their actions and commit to rectifying their behavior.

Following the meeting, our team continues to support and monitor both parties to ensure they receive ongoing assistance. Our commitment is to ensure that individuals are not left to deal with such situations alone.

Overall, the Awareness Council plays a vital role in handling delicate matters with care and diligence, striving to create a safe and supportive environment for all participants of Sixth Sense events.

Reports Before an Official Event

Occasionally we may receive reports before an official event. These reports typically indicate a history between the parties involved. It could be that the reporter has had a past relationship with the person they are reporting about, or there may have been an incident that recently occurred that warrants our attention.

When we receive such reports, our initial step is to assign a member from our awareness team to handle the case and delve deeper into the nature of the incident. We need to determine whether there is a potential risk of an incident happening at our upcoming event.

Our appointed representative will then evaluate the color code assigned to the case. If the code is black, it means that the individual reported will not be permitted to participate in our event. If the code is red, our awareness team will convene an awareness council to further address the situation as outlined above.

If the code is orange or green, we suggest to the reporter that they reach out to the other party and initiate a reconciliation process. We may offer to mediate between parties.

Our priority is to ensure the safety and well-being of all individuals involved in our events. We must handle all reports with sensitivity and diligence to uphold a secure and inclusive environment for everyone.

Exclusion

There may be instances where we have to make the difficult decision to exclude someone from attending our upcoming events. This decision cannot be taken lightly and is usually made in response to a serious issue, as a code red, or, worse, black.

We will always follow up on the person being excluded. They will be able to contact our awareness team (on our dedicated email), with the expectation of receiving a prompt answer or update about their case.

The exclusion will typically involve at least one upcoming event and will have a minimum duration of a few months. To be readmitted and allowed to attend future events, the excluded person must complete our Awareness Workshop module 1. This workshop is designed to educate participants on the dynamics that may have led to their exclusion and help prevent similar situations in the future.

The process of readmission may require some time, as individuals work through their understanding of the situation. Our goal is for the excluded person to gain insight into their behavior and make positive changes moving forward.

We expect that by attending the workshop, the sanctioned individual will recognize the dynamic that led to their exclusion, and possibly have a better understanding of how to not fall into the same pattern again in the future.

Awareness at Official Events

The main focus of our awareness team at official events is always the safety and well-being of our guests. We take our responsibility seriously and ensure that at least three members are on duty at all times, with one always close to the play area.

Our awareness team members must remain sober during their shift, before and after, as they may need to be recalled for a difficult situation. In the event of an incident, determining the color code helps us quickly allocate the necessary resources and provide assistance to those in need, while maintaining the safety of others.

In the case of a code black, communication with the individual involved is key, allowing the individuals to disengage, while seeking support from security.

If a code red occurs, our priority is, again, to allow the individuals involved to disengage, ascertain if there is an offender, and if so, kindly request them to give space to the victim. This might allow the individuals involved to change their perspective and the code might be downgraded to orange, or even green. Otherwise, we might seek support from the security and request the offender to leave.

To stress it even further, we never request any guest to leave without the support of security.

After the event, the awareness team meets to discuss the events of their shift, including any challenging incidents that occurred. This post-event analysis can provide valuable insights for further training and improvement in handling similar situations in the future.

Conclusions

At official events, the awareness team must remain vigilant, sober, and ready to respond to any incidents that may arise. Clear protocols are in place for handling different color codes, with a focus on ensuring the safety and well-being of all guests.

Sixth Sense is dedicated to fostering a community where everyone feels respected, valued, and free to explore their desires in a safe and supportive environment. Together, we can create a space where pleasure, intimacy, and connection can thrive.

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