

Handout: Photography Safety and Consent*

Safety

→ Follow the Leader

- ▶ The ground rules and agreements are created for your safety.

→ Take a Buddy

- ▶ ALWAYS let an adult know where you are and NEVER go out to take pictures alone.

→ Watch Out

- ▶ Any time you're near moving traffic or other hazards, concentrate on getting where you're going – NOT on taking your next photograph.
- ▶ Even when you've stopped to take a picture, stay aware of all of your surroundings.

→ Trust your Gut

- ▶ Instincts can be very powerful. If something or someone doesn't feel right, **trust yourself** and get out of that situation as quickly and calmly as possible.

→ Tell Somebody

- ▶ If something happens to you or someone else while you are out taking photographs that doesn't feel safe, always let an adult know right away.

Consent

- Always ask (and receive) someone's written permission before taking their photo, even if this means missing the perfect shot!
- Before you seek someone's permission, ask yourself, "Would I mind if someone took a picture of me in this situation?" If the answer is that you would mind, skip the shot!
- Be especially careful when taking pictures of children. Talk to their parents first, and have a parent sign the **Form: Subject Consent** (see p. X).
- Do not take pictures of people who are in "private" settings, such as through a window into their home.
- It is a good idea to ask permission before taking a picture of private property (for example, someone's house or yard).
- Remember to offer the person a copy of the picture. If the person would like a copy, have them note this on their consent form, along with their mailing or email address.

* Adapted from Metropolitan Area Planning Council (n.d.).