



LifeRing Predator Policy

LifeRing does not condone predatory behaviors of any sort in our on-line and face-to-face communities. While such behavior is rare, it jeopardizes the safe and supportive environment LifeRing seeks to establish for all our meetings and discussions.

Predatory behavior may include:

- sexual harassment
- sexual attack
- borrowing money
- selling goods for personal gain
- offering investment schemes
- theft of meeting funds

It is important to deal with such situations before they escalate. If a LifeRing participant feels he or she is a victim of predatory behavior, he or she should immediately discuss the matter privately -- and as soon as possible -- with the convenor, the Service Center, a member of the Board of Directors, or a member of the Executive Committee.

Depending on the circumstances, the convenor may decide to talk with the person suspected of preying on others in a public setting of some sort (restaurant, coffee shop, or other public meeting place) to hear their side of the story; to contact the Service Center for advice and counsel; or, if the offense is likely a criminal one or has the potential to escalate violently, to contact local law enforcement authorities immediately. At no time should LifeRing group members use violence or other inappropriate action in an attempt to solve the issue.

Convenors are urged to immediately contact the Service Center or the LifeRing Board of Directors if they believe there is a predatory issue of any kind occurring, or possibly brewing, in their meeting environment.

Individuals suspected of engaging in predatory behavior may be barred from attending LifeRing on-line and face-to-face meetings. This is a decision that is made with the convenor in consultation with the Board of Directors and Executive Committee and is handled on a case-by-case basis.

All of us in LifeRing have an obligation to protect the safe environment of our on-line and face-to-face meetings if we are to support our members in attaining and maintaining a sober, secular, and self-empowered life.

approved 07-2014