# **WGI BEST PRACTICE GUIDES**





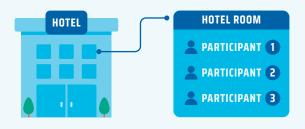
#### **OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS**

WGI understands that our groups face challenges when it comes to overnight accommodations, especially for Independent groups. This resource is meant to serve as a helpful guide for administrators to utilize for planning, but is not a policy or regulatory standard. WGI does not assume any responsibility or liability for a group's overnight accommodations. Regardless of the design of the accommodation, the WGI Participant Protection guidance of interactions being observable and interruptible should still be followed. **Best Practices for Overnight Accommodations include:** 

### 1 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR STAFF MEMBERS:

- Separate the sleeping spaces for minors and adults (floors, rooms, etc.);
- Separate genders in sleeping spaces with consideration for trans and gender non-conforming members;
- Avoid sharing beds, couches, and air mattresses with participants regardless of age or gender;
- Should a group require a meeting, use a public meeting space and ensure other adults or performers are present;
- · Do not use private hotel rooms to conduct meetings.





- Putting at least three participants in a hotel room is recommended to allow behavior to be observable and interruptible.
- When using a gym or shared space for floor sleeping, participants should be separated into sections by age and gender. In these cases, staff or chaperones can be in the same space as monitors but should keep the principles of observable and interruptible interactions applied.



## **2** GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS:



 Should groups use participant residencies, it is important to separate participants by age and avoid minor participants staying with adult participants.
Should a separate accommodation be completely unavoidable, written parental/guardian consent should be obtained.

### 3 CONSIDERATIONS FOR BATHROOMS AND SHOWERING:

- Genders should be provided with their own designated bathrooms. If not possible, bathing schedules should be established for genders.
- Minor participants should not shower at the same time as adult participants.
- Do not allow any participant to walk around in a towel or change in common space. This should only be allowed in private places such as bathrooms or bathroom stalls.
- Staff should use a different facility if possible or have their own established time for showering separately from participants, regardless of age.



# 4 AVOID THESE IF POSSIBLE:



- Minor participants (under 18 years old) and adult participants (18+ years old) should never share a hotel room, bed, couch, or private room. Minor participants shouldn't be more than two years of age apart when sharing a room.
- Exceptions could be made for a dual relationship such as children, siblings or a personal care exception. In either case, this should never be planned without signed consent from the parent/guardian.





- Staff members should not share rooms with participants, regardless of age. This would also include opening up personal residences to performers. Should you choose to house participants, minor participants should have written consent from parents/quardians.
- Housing performers as a staff member increases liability exposure for the staff member and possibly the group.

