SECTION 3: HOST FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

To promote the best possible homestay experience for international K-12 students, host family parent(s) should:

- 1. Provide a caring, nurturing, and supportive environment for international students.
- 2. Host families must provide a home free from discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, nationality, language, religion, and culture or cultural heritage.
- 3. Abide by all rules/guidelines established by the homestay program provider when hosting a student placed by that provider.
- 4. Be 25 years of age or older or receive approval from the international student program as an approved exception.
- 5. Ensure that all residents, long-term guests (i.e., those who stay for two or more weeks), and frequent visitors of the home over the age of 18 clear a Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Check.
- 6. Agree to scheduled in-home inspections by the international student program and/or the homestay program provider.
- 7. Homestay families must inform the homestay provider/program of all individuals living in the home including other students, frequent visitors or longterm guests, and those who take up residence after the student has arrived.
- 8. Have up to two international students in the homestay at the same time. It is recommended to have a mix of language groups in the home.
- 9. Consult with the Homestay Provider/ Program before concurrently hosting both adult and minor international students. In circumstances where minor and adult students are placed together, parents of the minor student must be informed of the situation.
- 10. Provide food for three nutritious meals and snacks each day.

- 11. Provide a clean and tidy home with a private, adequately furnished bedroom, with access to:
 - A. An area with a desk, chair and adequate lighting for homework
 - B. A bathroom, linens and use of laundry facilities
 - C. A clothing storage space
 - D. Entry into the home like any other member of the family (e.g., house key and alarm code, if applicable)
 - E. The Internet to support educational goals and consistent communication with home
- 12. Ensure the house is safe and complies with the BC Building Code and any local building bylaws (as applicable) and with the BC Fire Code and local fire protection bylaws.
- 13. Ensure the student's general well-being, seek medical attention when necessary, and report any significant medical, behavioural, or mental health issues to the school, the custodian, the homestay program provider and the international student program.

The host family, also known as the 'homestay family', is the B.C. family that welcomes an international student into its home to live while the student studies at a B.C. K-12 school.

[SECTION 3 CONTINUED...]

- 14. Inform the school or international student program if the student drinks alcohol, takes or possesses non-prescribed or illegal drugs, does not abide by homestay program or homestay family rules, or breaks the law.
- 15. Ensure the home and auto insurance policy adequately covers students residing within their home; some policies do not cover homestay students.
- 16. Ensure the home security system, in particular camera and video recording, is explained to the student during the home orientation, complies with privacy requirements, and does not invade the student's reasonable expectation of privacy.

- 17. Promote strong connections between an international student and their parents, schools and communities by:
 - A. Using the student's desired language of study (English or French) in the home
 - B. Imposing reasonable limits on the student's personal use of the internet (i.e., number of hours/day and appropriate times of day)
 - C. Negotiating and enforcing an appropriate and reasonable curfew and house rules for the student
 - D. Assisting the student in seeking extracurricular activities and sports
 - E. Attending school or district orientation for host families and other cultural or education events

