



Rafiki Africa Ministries

Providing hope and love through Jesus Christ

Short-Term Missionary: Covenant and Liability Release

Before coming to serve with Rafiki Africa Ministries in Uganda, please read through this Covenant and Liability Release form, fill your name in the first blank below and then email it to sara@rafikiministries.org (it can be scanned or copied then emailed). This is part of the short-term missionary application process.

The guidelines listed below are for those participating in this journey. You go not as a tourist, but as a guest of another country. Uganda is considered a Less Developed Country and does not have the same conveniences you are used to at home. It is very important to be flexible and willing to adjust to the expectations of your host country. As a short-term missionary, your position is to provide supplemental support to the long-term staff and Rafiki Africa Ministries while you are serving with us. Our staff is qualified and committed to our vision; you will be coming alongside them and following their guidance (unless otherwise directed by the founder/directors in advance) during your involvement with Rafiki Africa Ministries.

I, _____, recognize and accept the following conditions which will further the usefulness and safety of my time with Rafiki Africa Ministries. When accepted as a member of the Rafiki Africa Ministries team, I agree to:

1. Release and discharge the organizations and individuals which helped make these arrangements, including Rafiki Africa Ministries, their agents, employees, officers, and volunteers, from all claims, demands, actions, judgments, or executions that I have ever had, or now have, or may have, or which my heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns may have or claim to have, against these organizations, their agents, employees, officers, and volunteers, and their successors or assigns, for all personal injuries, known or unknown, and injuries to property, real or personal, caused by, or arising out of this journey. I intend to be legally bound by this statement.
2. Adopt an attitude that I will try to understand the host culture, not to convince them of my own viewpoint or style. I go to Uganda knowing that there are many different ways to accomplish the same objective and know that my way is not necessarily the best.
3. Respect the advice I am given concerning attire, eating, drinking, and other such traditions that will help me to assimilate into the local community. I will respect the cultural differences.
4. Abstain from making derogatory comments or arguments regarding the people, politics, sports, religion, race, or traditions.
5. Go as a servant-disciple of Jesus Christ and to adopt that attitude when dealing with my fellow team members and the people I meet during the trip. Remember I am the unknown Christian from another part of the world and will be watched very closely. I will not take the important responsibility of setting an example lightly.
6. Accept and submit to the leadership role and authority of the Volunteer Coordinator and promise to abide by his or her decisions as they concern this mission trip.
7. Acknowledge that by engaging in this journey, I am subjecting myself to certain risks voluntarily, in addition to those risks that I normally face in my personal and business life, including, but not limited to, such things as health hazards due to poor food and water, diseases, pests, and poor sanitation; potential danger from lack of control over local population; potential injury while working; and inadequate medical facilities.

8. Understand that my work is but a tiny speck in the bigger picture that *Rafiki Africa Ministries* is trying to accomplish. I promise not to be overly demanding, to do my best not to offend or cause embarrassment for the local hosts and to help them attain their long-term goals.
9. Attend all weekly meetings on Tuesday at 8:30am.
10. Refrain from meddling, complaining, lying, dishonesty, and obscene or insensitive humor. I realize that others on my team during the journey and while onsite will look at me for an example of how a Christian acts. I will be honest at all times.
11. Refrain from using tobacco and/or alcoholic beverages while in the host country. Abstain from any illegal drugs or prohibited activity while on this trip.
12. Regard the differing style of worship with respect and I promise that where I see the need, I will witness my faith, but without a superior attitude.
13. If a loved one or dear friend is traveling with me, we agree to interact with all members of the team, not just one another.
14. I promise not to seek or engage in new romantic relationships with anyone (including fellow team members, employees of Rafiki, and Ugandans) during this trip. I will avoid any actions that might be perceived as affectionate or romantic attentions toward any people I meet while on the mission trip.
15. If traveling with a significant other or spouse, I will respect the Ugandan culture with not showing open signs of affection such as kissing or touching each other in a manner that disrespects the culture.
16. Refrain from giving gifts, such as money, clothes, jewelry, tape players, etc. to the locals. Although the intent of the giver is good, the result after you leave may cause problems, jealousy, and bitterness among those locals who received no such gifts. If I feel compelled to give a gift to someone I have met, I will consult first with the Volunteer Coordinator before I promise or give the gift. I promise to let the Volunteer Coordinator make the final decision on this matter.
17. Understand that every person is expected to share freely from his or her particular blessing and talents, whether that is a skill such as music, art, carpentry, or basic hard work. I agree to participate in these ways as fully as possible.
18. By signing this document I release all rights to any and all photographs and recordings that have been or will be produced in connections with my mission trip led by *Rafiki Africa Ministries*.
19. I will not give my personal contact information to anyone in Uganda. This will avoid potential problems with direct appeal for money. If I want to have future contact with someone in Uganda, I will work through *Rafiki Africa Ministries*.
20. I agree that in the event my conduct is considered so unsatisfactory that it jeopardizes the success of the trip, and that mediation during the trip has failed to correct my behavior, that my services in connection with this mission shall end and I shall return home immediately at my own expense.
21. **In signing below, I agree to follow all guidelines put forth in this Covenant and Liability Release. I agree to not hold Rafiki Africa Ministries accountable for anything that may happen on my mission trip. I agree to act as a Christian ambassador and follow all of the rules and guidelines set forth during my orientation and stay at the Children's Home.**

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

-----**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**-----

Date of Orientation: _____

Name/Title of Person conducting Orientation: _____

Signature of Person conducting Orientation: _____

Director's Signature: _____ Date: _____