

MS 644 Fraternalization

Effective Date: June 28, 2011

Responsible Offices: Office of Global Operations; Office of the General Counsel

Supersedes: IPS 1-03

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this Manual Section is to set out the Peace Corps policy on fraternization among Peace Corps staff and Volunteers.

2.0 Definitions

2.1 Fraternalization

Fraternalization means any dating or intimate physical or sexual relationship between any Peace Corps staff member and any Peace Corps Volunteer, or between any Peace Corps staff member and any member of his or her subordinate staff or between any Volunteer and person, including a student, over whom the Volunteer exercises authority.

2.2 Staff

Staff means all direct-hire staff and personal services contractors, whether U.S. citizens, third country nationals, or host country nationals.

2.3 Volunteer

Volunteer includes a Peace Corps applicant or Trainee.

2.4 Dating

Dating means a social/personal engagement as opposed to a professional appointment or office social event. Having a group of Volunteers over for a cookout or dinner does not constitute dating, but having an individual over or taking an individual out for lunch, dinner, or movies where there is no legitimate professional nexus to the activity does.

3.0 Policy

Fraternalization is prohibited by the Peace Corps. Violation of this fraternization policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination or administrative separation.

4.0 Effective date

This Manual Section will be effective on the date of issuance.

