

SULADS THAILAND

Missionary Dating Policy

The full time missionaries getting involved with another volunteer or a local while serving in Thailand is one of the most challenging issues faced by SULADS Thailand staff. Therefore the SULADS Thailand has taken the stand of asking each missionary to abstain from getting involved in any romantic relationship while in the mission field for the following reasons:

1. A dating relationship takes the focus from your reason for being there and that is to serve and teach the people.
2. Because you are in an entirely unique living environment from anything you may have experienced before, it changes your view and perspective on many things in life. After a number of months you may find yourself getting together with someone that most likely you would not have under normal conditions back home where the pool of available people is significantly larger.
3. By entering into a dating relationship with another volunteer or with a local, from your desire to spend time with that special one, you may limit your opportunities to enjoy the mission experience with the entire body of volunteers and staff who are serving with you.
4. Many cultures have different social rules for dating. To some of them sexual relationships may be all they know, and by becoming a dating couple you are potentially placing yourself in a position for the local folks to draw negative assumptions about you, thus hindering the work of the ministry, school or church. Because of your call as a missionary, the locals place you on a higher standard of behavior, and they expect the missionaries to live up to these expectations. By involving yourself in a dating relationship, you place your own reputation, that of the ministry and God's work at risk. It is impossible to ban people from developing special feelings for another person, but if this occurs during your experience, we ask that you conduct yourself in all matters so that no questions can be asked of your behavior. If that person is meant to be in your future, he/she will still be there when your term of service is complete.

NOTE: *The SULADS Thailand reserves the right to take disciplinary actions against any immoral actions or behaviors.*

I FULLY UNDERSTAND AND I AGREE:

Your full name and signature