

# **A PARENT'S GUIDE TO MARTIAL ARTS SAFETY**

## ***Evaluating Your Child's Training Environment***

Choosing a martial arts school is a decision that impacts your child's physical and emotional development. Use this checklist to ensure the school you choose meets the professional and safety standards of the International Tum Pai Association™.

### 1. The "Safety First" Credentials

\*  Official Affiliation: Can the school produce a current Charter of Affiliation from a recognized international body (e.g., International Tum Pai Association)? Unlicensed schools operate without oversight.

\*  Background Checks: Does the school conduct recurring, third-party criminal background checks on all instructors and staff?

\*  Prevention Training: Are instructors trained in abuse prevention and "grooming" recognition and are you allowed to view the training materials and/or records?

### 2. Professional Boundaries (The "Red Flags")

\*  Open Door Policy: Are parents allowed to observe any class at any time?

\* Red Flag: A "closed-door" policy is a major warning sign.

\*  One-on-One Contact: Does the school have a strict policy prohibiting unsupervised one-on-one contact between an adult and a minor?

\*  The "Cool Adult" Trap: Do instructors try to become "best friends" with students, buy them gifts, or communicate with them privately via social media/texting?

\*  Secrets: Does the instructor ever encourage a student to keep a secret from their parents "as part of our martial arts bond"?

### 3. Operational Safety

\*  Cleanliness: Are the mats cleaned daily with hospital-grade disinfectant? (Prevents staph/MRSA).

\*  Age-Appropriate Training: Are kids kept in age-appropriate groups? (An 8-year-old should not be sparring with a 17-year-old).

\*  First Aid: Is there always at least one CPR/First Aid certified person on the mat during every class?

### 4. Verifying "Tum Pai" Authenticity

Because of recent unauthorized use of the "Tum Pai" name, we urge parents to verify the lineage of their instructor.

\* Legitimate Lineage: Jon Loren → Jay Burkey → Toby Ericksen.

\* Unauthorized Groups: If your instructor was expelled from this lineage, they are teaching without the creator's authority and are not bound by our safety mandates.