

# Protecting Our Future



*CREATING A  
SAFER  
ENVIRONMENT  
FOR THOSE  
ENTRUSTED  
TO YOUR  
CHURCH'S CARE.*



# Protecting Our Future

The practices discussed in this presentation have been compiled based on the experiences of churches and ministries across our state and the country. As a result, they are a recommended starting point for discussing how best to protect children in ministry today.

It is important to note, however, the following information does not constitute legal advice, nor is it a suggestion that these are the only ways to handle protections issues.

It is strongly recommended that church leaders seek out legal counsel when crafting and implementing their own protection policies.

# Objectives for Protecting Our Future

## **You will learn...**

- **Why action is necessary.**
- **Methods for limiting the possibility of abuse occurring.**
- **How to implement these policies in your church.**

# Reasons for these Policies

- For years, child abuse has been a \_\_\_\_\_ in our society.
- Churches are becoming the \_\_\_\_\_ of liability suits.
- It is the \_\_\_\_\_ to do.

# Protecting Our Future By:

1. Establishing a process for \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Developing a \_\_\_\_\_ Plan
3. Providing Adequate Insurance
4. Properly \_\_\_\_\_workers
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Workers
6. Create a Church \_\_\_\_\_ for picking up Children
7. Creating \_\_\_\_\_

*1 Corinthians 4:2 (NIV) “Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.”*

# Establish a Process for Selecting Workers

1. 6 Month Rule
2. Written Application for Paid Staff and Volunteer Workers
3. Reference Checks
4. Background Checks
5. Interview



*1 Timothy 5:22 “Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands....”*

# Methods of Background Checks

## 1. County Check

Includes all criminal acts by an individual in a particular county. Contact your local Sheriff's Department for details.

## 2. State Check

Includes all criminal acts by an individual in the state.

[www.fdle.state.fl.us/](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/)

## 3. Private Investigator or Screening Company

Search includes locations outside of Florida and may include a driver's license and social security verification. There are many companies that provide this service such as:

- [protectmyministry.com](http://protectmyministry.com)
- [churchvolunteercentral.com](http://churchvolunteercentral.com)

## 4. Florida Convicted Sex Offender's List

Statewide list of convicted sex offenders.

[www.fdle.state.fl.us/](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/)

# Develop a Plan for Response

- ✓ Take every allegation \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ Remove the alleged perpetrator from the situation until a proper \_\_\_\_\_ has been conducted.
- ✓ Report \_\_\_\_\_ to the authorities as required by law.
- ✓ Do not \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ Contact attorney and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ to the victim and family.
- ✓ Share information only as \_\_\_\_\_.



# Provide Adequate Insurance

## Two Types of Coverage

### 1. Sexual Molestation

Coverage should include an action taken by a church staff member or a \_\_\_\_\_ toward a minor in the church's care.

### 2. Sexual Harassment

Coverage should include sexual misconduct by a staff member directed toward another \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

\* Note: Sexual harassment insurance does not cover churches in case of molestation.



# Properly Supervising Workers

**Who does the Two Adult Rule protect?**

**How will you ensure these policies are followed by each ministry?**

**To whom should workers report misconduct or abuse?**

# Training Workers



1. To follow \_\_\_\_\_
2. To recognize signs of \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_
3. To give proper displays of \_\_\_\_\_
4. To use appropriate methods of \_\_\_\_\_
5. To handle \_\_\_\_\_

# Policy for picking up Children

**1. Collect \_\_\_\_\_ about child, parents or guardians, and who has permission to pick up child.**

**2. Develop \_\_\_\_\_ that ensures children are picked up only by those with permission.**

**3. Determine how to handle any \_\_\_\_\_.**

# Create Balance

**Churches must balance between:**



**Does your church have a balanced approach?**

# 3 Phases of Implementation

## Phase 1

### Information

- Discovery
- Get Pastoral Support
- Prepare Key Leaders
- Begin Writing Policies

## Phase 2

### Education

- Prepare Teachers
- Church Decision to adopt policies
- Teachers Trained
- Forms Developed

## Phase 3

### Implementation

- Screening Begins
- Policies Take Effect

# Resources for developing policies

## **GuideOne.com**

[https://www.guideone.com/safetyresources/churches/Downloads/sm\\_childprotect\\_sample.pdf](https://www.guideone.com/safetyresources/churches/Downloads/sm_childprotect_sample.pdf)

## **ProtectMyMinistry.com**

<http://protectmyministry.com>

## **Reducing the Risk**

<http://store.churchlawtodaystore.com/reducingrisk.html>

## **SBC Website**

<http://www.sbc.net/churchresources/sexabuseprevention.asp>



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**A Cooperative Program Ministry of  
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