



# 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.



**For years, child abuse has been a growing problem in our society.**

**“Sexual assault continues to represent the most rapidly growing violent crime in America, claiming a victim every four seconds.”**

**—Lonnie Bristow, M.D., President American Medical Association 1995**



**“1 in 20 boys will be a victim of child sexual abuse.”**

**“1 in 5 girls will be a victim of child sexual abuse.”**

**-National Center for The Victims of Crime**

<http://www.victimsofcrime.org/news-center/reporter-resources/child-sexual-abuse/child-sexual-abuse-statistics>





**1.3 Million +/- children are sexually assaulted annually.**

**- The Gallup Poll**

# Churches are becoming the **targets** of liability suits.

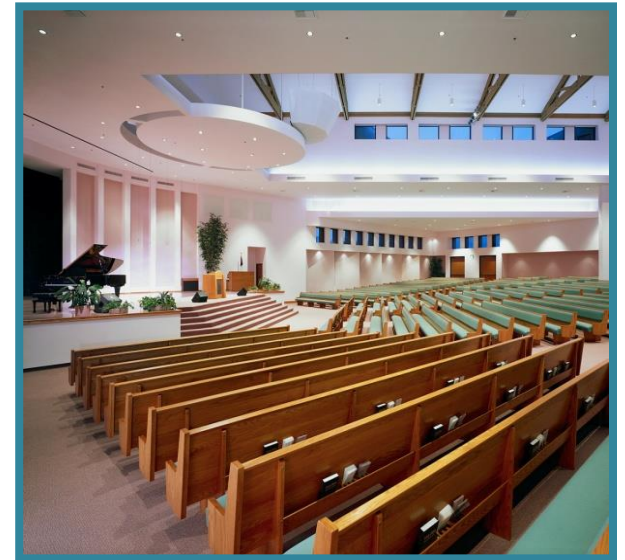
**“The American Bar Association has hosted ... conferences on “How to Sue Churches.”**

- Church Law & Tax Report



Why Should we be concerned?  
It is the right thing to do!

If you were sexually abused by a church leader, how would it affect your views about God and the church?



We have a responsibility to protect the children God has entrusted to our care!!

# PROTECT OUR FUTURE BY:

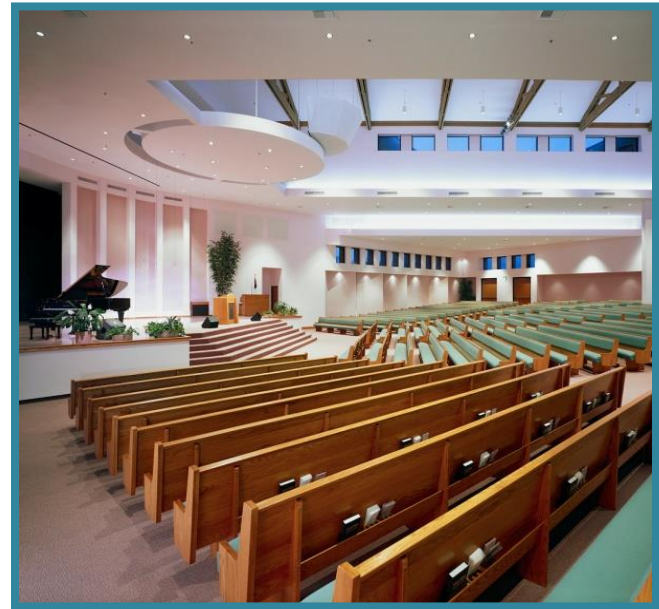
1. Establishing a Process for **Selecting Workers**
2. Developing a **Response Plan**
3. Providing Adequate **Insurance**
4. Properly **Supervising Workers**
5. **Training Workers**
6. Create a church **Policy** for picking up Children
7. Creating **Balance**





# Establish a Process for Selecting Workers

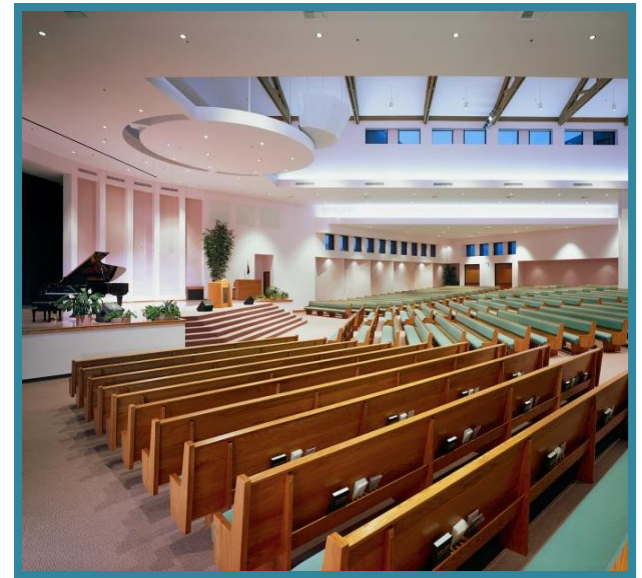
**How many of you are in settings where you know everyone in the church?**



# Establish a Process for Selecting Workers

**90% of all sexual abuse is committed by someone who is known and trusted by the child.**

**-Protecting the Gift**



# Establish a Process for Selecting Workers

## 1. SIX MONTH RULE

- **No immediate access to children**
- **Demonstrates church knows the people working with their children**



## 2. WRITTEN APPLICATION

# Establish a Process for Selecting Workers

## 3. REFERENCE CHECKS

- **Standard Questionnaire**
- **Confirm Reference responses**



# Establish a Process for Selecting Workers

**“The average child molester victimizes between 30 and 60 children before he is ever caught.”**

**– Protecting the Gift**



# Establish a Process for Selecting Workers

## 4. BACKGROUND CHECKS

## 5. INTERVIEW



# Develop a Plan for Response



1. Take every allegation **seriously**.
2. Remove the alleged perpetrator from the situation until a proper **investigation** has been conducted.
3. Report **allegations** to the authorities as required by law.
4. Do not **rush to judgment**.

# Develop a Plan for Response



5. **Contact attorney and Insurance Company.**
6. **Minister to the victim and family.**
7. **Share information only as necessary.**



# Provide Adequate Insurance

## Two Types of Coverage:

### 1. **Sexual Molestation**

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



# Provide Adequate Insurance

## Two Types of Coverage:

**2. Sexual Harassment Coverage** should include sexual misconduct by a staff member directed toward another staff member.

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



# Properly Supervising Workers



- **Two Adult Rule**
- **Supervision in each ministry**
- **Establish a procedure to report misconduct or abuse**

# Training Workers



- To follow **policies**.
- To recognize signs of **abuse and neglect**.
- To proper displays of **affection**.
- Methods of **discipline**.
- To handle **emergencies**.

# Create a Policy for picking up Children

1. Collect **information** about child, parents or guardians, and who has permission to pick up child.
2. Develop **practices** that ensures children are picked up only by those with permission.
3. Determine how to handle any **breakdowns**.

# Create Balance



# 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>