

Summary of Recommendations to Protect Children & Youth from Abuse

1. Training
2. Rules for interacting with children
3. Reporting Requirements
4. Hiring Practices/Screening/Background Checks (paid employees & volunteers who work with children)
5. Security
6. Restricted physical access to children
7. You need a policy in place for what to do if a known sexual predator wishes to attend your church services
8. Visual line of sight required for all child & youth workers
9. No leaders alone with children (a few exceptions)
10. No underage leaders put in charge of children (a few exceptions)
11. Well managed and closely supervised youth activities
12. Drop-off and pickup procedures
13. Properly worded and properly used forms
14. Comprehensive policy & procedures manual for child & youth protection
15. Record keeping

General "Umbrella" Summary Policies for the Protection of Children & Youth

**COVERS PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES FOR ALL YOUTH, INCLUDING INFANTS
AND PRE-K, ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL AGES**

APPLIES TO ALL OF OUR EVENTS WHEREVER THEY ARE HELD

**ANY ORGANIZATION USING OUR FACILITIES TO MINISTER TO YOUTH WILL
BE REQUIRED TO HAVE SIMILAR RULES IN EFFECT TO PROTECT CHILDREN**

1. Contact with Youth: Physical and non-physical contact with youth are allowed, but must be appropriate and must be done in a way that demonstrates and ensures respect for the safety and dignity of young people.
2. Access points into the youth area must be restricted and controlled. The number of access points must be limited to the minimum necessary to accommodate efficient drop-off and pickup procedures.
3. Youth must be treated equally and with respect.
4. Management and supervision of youth programs are critically important and are required for all youth programs.
5. Proposed youth programs must be formally approved by the youth ministry pastor(s) and the senior pastor. The youth ministry pastor(s) and the senior pastor might also seek additional input from the full board of elders.
6. Reporting: All pastors, teachers, youth workers & administrative staff must complete the state of Ga. online training for mandatory reporters and must follow the law.
 - A. Reporting requirements apply to pastors, youth workers, teachers, administrative staff & volunteers.
 - B. Boundary violations must be reported in writing to: _____.
 - C. Suspected or known child abuse must be reported to: _____.
 - D. Any person in the state of _____ who reasonably believes that a child has been abused is required by law to report that suspected abuse to the state child welfare department and to the local police department.
 - I. Clergy/penitent privilege is not respected in most U.S. jurisdictions when it comes to reporting requirements for pastors.
7. Youth leaders must maintain a visual line of sight at all times when working with youth.
8. Romantic relationships:
 - A. Romantic relationships, which include dating, between an adult and a child, or an older child and a significantly younger child [range of disparity determined by the church], are prohibited.
 - B. Romantic relationships, which includes dating, between church youth workers, paid or volunteer, and a member of, or a non-member attendee to, a church youth program are also prohibited. Rare exceptions might be granted for relationships between a young adult volunteer and an older participant in the high school youth program.