

Minor's Protection Policies

(For churches who do NOT gather children)

Some church congregations do not offer or provide ministry to minors. In such cases, it remains the fiduciary responsibility of the church to ensure the safety and well-being of minors who attend, while also being responsible stewards with consideration of church liability when minors are present.

Below is a sample policy that churches may adopt as their policy in such instances.

Welcome Statement

Welcome to (our church)!

At (our church) we take the protection and wellbeing of minors very seriously. Children are beautiful gifts from the Lord. We welcome all children to worship with us and wish to facilitate a safe and nurturing environment.

*At this time, we are unable to provide specific ministry or care to minors in our church. **Therefore, we want to be sure each family understands that while on our church property or at any gathering hosted by our church, the children in your care are your responsibility.***

We kindly ask that minors are not left unattended and remain with a parent or guardian at all times.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

(Your church name)

Policies and Procedures

1. **Staff Training:** All paid staff and pastors will be Ministry Safe trained (or comparable child protection training). This should include Sexual Abuse awareness training, Screening, and Criminal Background checks through Ministry Safe (or appropriate background check).
2. **2 Adult Rule:** In common spaces our staff and volunteers will follow the 2-adult rule. There will be two unrelated adults present during any activity where children are present during scheduled meetings and gatherings.
3. **Background Check for all Volunteers.** All volunteers who serve in any capacity (wear a name tag) at our church will first submit to a criminal background check.
4. **Welcome Statement** will be posted in bathrooms and given to all families (and visitors) who have children attending.
5. **Mandatory Reporting:** Our church will follow appropriate reporting processes anytime we suspect or are made aware of abuse or neglect of a minor.
6. **Visitor Policy:** Families who visit with children will be made aware of our policies upon arrival by providing the "Welcome Statement." This statement will also be published in any bulletin or handout given when parishioners arrive.
 - a. **Children's Welcome Packet** – for families should include **"Welcome Statement"**, some type of engaging activity page or coloring supplies etc. for use during service.
7. **Nursing Mother's room** will be made available if premises allow as a courtesy for mothers who need privacy or a quiet place to care for their infants and young children.
8. **Playground Use at Your Own Risk:** Children must be supervised by an adult at all times. The church is not responsible for injuries or accidents. Please use the equipment safely and responsibly. (This statement should be posted prominently at the entrance of the playground.)