

GUIDELINES FOR CREATING LOCAL CHURCH ABUSE PROTECTION POLICIES

It is the expectation of our INUMC leadership that all churches will have an abuse prevention plan. *Administrative bodies of the local church shall be responsible for implementing and monitoring their own policy and accompanying procedures.*

Your plan should be on file with both your local church and the District Office. If you or your church need help creating, understanding or providing training on any area of abuse prevention and/or child protection, contact _____ for assistance.

1. For those ready to review an existing policy or desiring to create your own, here are ten elements of a protection policy with implementation expectations.
2. Description of the work with children and vulnerable adults, including expectations around training and action as it pertains to child safety;
3. Procedures to be used in recruitment and selection of all employees and volunteers who will work with or have any access to children, youth, and vulnerable adults;
4. Plan for training all employees and volunteers about all aspects of the protection policy, including provisions for routine re-training and annual review of the protection policies and procedures. (This should include a review of the church's liability coverage for both staff and volunteers.)
5. Procedures designed to reduce the risk and increase the detection of instance of abuse of any type, including training on the habits and aspects of predatory behavior;
6. Procedure for reporting incidents of known and suspected abuse of children, youth or vulnerable adults to appropriate church leaders, including district leadership, and to appropriate civil authorities in accordance with the laws of Indiana;
7. Information about resources and strategies for adults who have questions about the policy or who confront situations that make them uncomfortable;
8. Provides for the safety, protection, and ongoing emotional support of those who may have been victimized;
9. Understanding how to report known or suspected incidents of abuse to family members, the congregation and the public, as appropriate, while protecting those involved;
10. Plan for dealing with allegations against a church worker, church employee, or church volunteer;
11. Procedures on how to manage social media and other digital or virtual contact between adults and minors.

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