

INUMC Abuse Awareness Glossary

The following definitions are used throughout our policies or are offered for clarity in understanding the scope and impact of abuse.

1. **Neglect.** A child or vulnerable person's physical or mental condition is seriously impaired or endangered as a result of the inability, refusal, or neglect of a parent, guardian, or custodian to supply the person with necessary food, clothing, shelter, medical care, education or supervision.
2. **Abuse.** A child or vulnerable person's physical or mental health is seriously endangered due to injury by the act or omission of a parent, guardian, or custodian.
3. **Sexual Abuse.** A child or vulnerable person is the victim of a sex offense (rape, criminal deviate conduct, child molestation, exploitation, seduction, sexual misconduct with a minor, public indecency, prostitution or incest). For purposes of this policy, sex abuse is also defined to include possession or viewing of obscene, explicit, or pornographic material in the proximity of a child or vulnerable person.
4. **Ritual Abuse.** Abuse in which physical, sexual, or psychological violations of a child are inflicted regularly, intentionally, and in a stylized way by a person or persons responsible for the child's welfare.
5. **Staff.** Includes any clergy person, any paid employee of the conference or a district, and any paid employee of any group, committee, team or agency of the conference or a district if responsible for the care or supervision of a participant at an Annual Conference or District event.
6. **Volunteer.** Any non-clergy, lay worker who is responsible for the care or supervision of children, youth or vulnerable adult participants at an Annual Conference or District event. This may include paid staff members of a local church who are acting as volunteers for purpose of the Conference or District event.
7. **Participants.** Children, youth, or vulnerable adults who are registered, enrolled, attending or otherwise participating in an event or activity sponsored by the Annual Conference or a District.
8. **Conference/District Ministry or Event.** Include ministries or events planned and supervised by the appointed staff and/or volunteers of the Annual Conference or a district of the Annual Conference.

9. **Protected Persons.** Include children, youth and vulnerable adults.

10. **Vulnerable Adults.** Are persons over 18 years of age with physical, mental and/or developmental disabilities.

11. **Children.** Are persons 0-11 years of age.

12. **Youth.** Are 12-18 years of age.

13. **Social Media.** An internet-based form of communication which allows for conversation, shared information and content creation.

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