

Your Children are our #1 priority!

Child Abuse Prevention Training

Thank you for serving in Children's Ministry!

Current Statistics...

- 90% of Children are abused by someone they know.
- Child abuse occurs at every social economic level, across ethnic & cultural lines, within all religions and at all levels of education.
- One out of three girls and one out of five boys will be sexually molested by the time they reach the age of 17.

Why is this training important?

- Child abuse has become a nationwide issue since about the 1980's.
- Schools, camps, churches and other youth organizations have come under intense scrutiny.
- We must be sensitive and well-informed to avoid potential difficulties in this area and for the well-being of the young people entrusted to our care.

On-Site Protection and Prevention:

Our Safe Sanctuary policies protect not only our children, but also our volunteers. They serve to protect the volunteers from false accusations of abuse.

Abusers are married, unmarried, young, old, rich, poor, white, black – THEY LOOK LIKE ME AND YOU.

Child abuse can be committed by either a minor or an adult.

What is Child Abuse?

Child abuse is defined as any physical, sexual or emotional mistreatment of a child, as well as neglect of a child.

Examples of Child Abuse:

- Emotional Abuse
- Neglect
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Verbal Abuse





Your Children are our #1 priority!

Emotional Abuse:

Any behavior that Affects the psychology of an individual by overpowering him/her. It can be verbal or non verbal.

Neglect:

Any serious disregard for a child's supervision, care or well being. Child neglect may be physical, medical, educational or emotional.

Physical Abuse:

Inflicting bodily injury through excessive force.

Sexual Abuse:

Sexual behavior/acts imposed onto a child.

Any type of sexual behavior or contact occurring between an adult and a child under 17 years of age is a crime in the state of Texas.

Verbal Abuse:

Belittling, degrading or threatening to harm a child or youth.

Did you know?

- Force is the least likely technique.
- Majority of abusers will choose the seduction strategy.

Your Children are our #1 priority!

Some Warning Signs of Child Abuse:

- Fear of going home or seeing parents or caregivers.
- Frequent injuries (bruises, cuts, burns, etc...) & it can be in a pattern. Passive, withdrawn, emotional less behavior.
- Difficulty sitting or walking.
- Knowledge about sexual relations beyond what is appropriate for their age.



WARNING SIGNS



Warning signs are just that – warning signs. The presence of warning signs does not mean that a child is being abused.

If you witness abuse: What should you do?

You do not have to gather additional information, decide if what you witnessed or were told is abuse but you must legally report to someone who will follow up.

Reporting Abuse: If a child/student discloses abuse to you, notify immediately:

One of the Pastors

Director or Assistant Director of Children's / Youth Ministry

Your Children are our #1 priority!

Responding to Abuse:

If a child/student discloses abuse to you...

- The most important thing to do is listen.
- What the child tells you is considered admissible evidence in a court of law.
 - You should believe the child/student*
 - You should affirm the child / student*
 - You should protect the child / student*
 - You should refer the child / student*

The Effects of Child Abuse Last a Life Time.

- Difficulty in forming long term relationships.
- Physical complaints and Physical symptoms.
- Depression, suicidal thoughts and suicide.

Building, Protecting and Raising children is a community effort. It takes all of us working together Parents, teacher volunteers.





Your Children are our #1 priority!

Child Abuse Prevention Training

Thank you for serving in Children's Ministry!

**Please print this page
Sign and return to Director of Children's Ministry**

I have read and have a better understanding of child abuse and am fully committed to love and protect our children.

Please print your full name

Please sign your full name

Date _____