

SAFE CHURCH PRESENTATION

Covenant CRC



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SAFE CHURCH PRESENTATION

Please read through the following slides if you are a volunteer at Covenant CRC.

PLEASE NOTE – all volunteers who are helping out with the vulnerable sector (children under 18, the disabled or the elderly will need a vulnerable sector police check. If you have not applied and submitted your original form to Carolyn Schilstra, please let us know this morning.

Once you had read and reviewed all the slides in the presentation, please click on the link at the bottom and declare via email that you have participated in the review.



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DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE



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- * **PHYSICAL ABUSE:** non-accidental injury inflicted on another person.
- * **NEGLECT:** failure to meet the basic needs of someone dependent on another for care.
- * **SEXUAL ABUSE:** any experience forced on one person by another which may or may not involve physical contact.

DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE



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- * **EMOTIONAL ABUSE:** any attempt to control another person's life.
- * **HARASSMENT:** any interaction with a person that makes them feel attacked, demeaned, intimidated or manipulated.
- * **SPIRITUAL ABUSE:** the exploitation, coercion, or control of a person by a leader with spiritual authority.

REPORTING ABUSE



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- * abuse of a **child** under the age of sixteen must be reported to Family and Children's Services.
- * abuse of an **adult** will be reported to the Pastor who will inform the Chair of Council and the Safe Church Team.

GEMS, CADETS & YOUTH



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- * those working with children & youth will use positive techniques of guidance, such as redirection, positive reinforcement and encouragement rather than competition, and criticism.
- * they will have age-appropriate expectations and establish an environment that minimizes the need for discipline.
- * they will refrain from any behavior that could be considered abusive.

GEMS, CADETS & YOUTH



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- * they will make sure that the children and youth in their care are always supervised.
- * they will not use, possess or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while working with children or youth.
- * they will monitor bathrooms at all times.

GEMS, CADETS & YOUTH



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- * any one-on-one meetings must be pre-arranged with the consent of the leaders and the parents.
- * when transporting children or youth there will always be two adults or other people in the vehicle.

VIRTUAL GATHERINGS OF YOUTH



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- * 1. Virtual gatherings with youth should be advertised in advance and take place at regularly scheduled times.
- * 2. When interactions with youth occur virtually outside of scheduled meetings, a "rule of three" should be initiated whenever possible. (a "rule of three" includes at least one other adult in the communications or another adult being aware of the communications.)

VIRTUAL GATHERINGS OF YOUTH



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- * 3. Two adults (not related) should be present during all virtual gatherings with youth.
- * 4. All adults interacting with youth virtually shall be background checked and trained in accordance with our Safe Church policy.
- * 5. Appropriate attire should be worn at all times.

VIRTUAL GATHERINGS OF YOUTH



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- * 6. Attention should be given to camera placement and to the background visible. Be sure that the camera is only videoing the participants and keep background images, distractions and noise to a minimum.
- * 7. Interactions with youth should take place at normal times of day.
- * 8. The reporting mandates, as outlined in our Safe Church Policy, will continue to be followed.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP



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- * all children in Children's Worship (CW) should be toileted before CW starts. If a child needs to go to the toilet during CW, a parent will be notified and will need to come to take their child to the toilet. Children over the age of 6 can go to the toilet on their own.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS



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- * only assigned nursery attendants are to be in the nursery.
- * no married couples or parent/child volunteers will be scheduled at the same time, in the same room.
- * only parents or designated care-givers can sign a child in/out of the nursery.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP



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- * volunteers are not to help with the personal care of the participants.
- * volunteers are not expected to transport the participants and to and from the meetings.
- * volunteers are not expected to deal with any behavioral issues.

PASTORAL MINISTRY WORKERS

(including ministers, elders, deacons and pastoral care workers)



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- * try to meet in public places if possible or ensure that a third person is present at any visits or meetings.
- * all pastoral ministry workers need to report all pastoral visits to their respective co-ordinating bodies.

Forms to be signed



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Thank you for reviewing the slides. You may also take the time to read through the actual safe church policy also found on this page on the website. Now that you are done, please click on the link below to send an email to the office that you have participated.

Thank you!!

QUESTIONS???



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If you have any further questions about the policy, please contact Karen Vandyk or Carolyn Schilstra or a member of the Safe Church Ministry Team at Covenant CRC.

(Karin Knight, Irene VandenBoogaard, Lisa VanderKuip)