

SAFE SANCTUARIES LOCAL CHURCH EVALUATION FORM

Use the following list to help your congregation assess its policy needs for the prevention of child abuse in your church. Read each statement, and mark the appropriate response in the column to the right. By completing the form, you will be able to see at a glance the areas needing attention.

Statement	Yes	No	Unsure
We screen and check references for all paid employees, including clergy, who have any contact with children and/or youth.			
We screen all volunteer workers for any position involving work with children and/or youth.			
We train at least annually all volunteer and/or paid workers with children/youth to understand the nature of abuse and to recognize indicators of abuse.			
We train at least annually all volunteer and/or paid workers with children/youth in how to carry out our policies to prevent abuse.			
Our workers and volunteers are informed of state law requirements regarding abuse and their responsibility for reporting incidents.			
We have a clear reporting procedure for a suspected incident of abuse that follows the requirements of our state law.			
We have insurance coverage available in case a complaint of abuse occurs.			
We have a clearly defined building usage strategy as a component of our abuse prevention plan.			
We have a clearly defined response plan to be implemented in case an allegation of abuse is made against someone in our church.			
We offer at least annual education opportunities to parents of children and youth about how to recognize and reduce risks of abuse.			
We take our policies to prevent abuse seriously, and we are committed to their enforcement for the safety and security of all our children, youth and the adults who work with them.			

From: "Safe Sanctuaries: Reducing the Risk of Child Abuse in the Church" by Joy Thornberg Melton