

Christ Our Shepherd Child Safety Training



**PREVENTION OF ABUSE AND
PROTECTION OF OUR CHILDREN
AND YOUTH**

Agenda



- Opening Prayer
- COS Mission and Vision Statement
- Purpose of Training
- Screening Procedures for COS Volunteers working with children and youth
- Required forms for volunteers
- The danger of abuse and it's impact
- Appropriate/Prohibited Behaviors & Supervision guidelines
- Reporting Requirements



I've learned that people will forget
what you say and what you did, but
people will never forget how you
made them feel.

~ Maya Angelou

Mark 10: 13-16

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Vision Statement



Our vision is connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life. In keeping with this vision, Christ Our Shepherd seeks to provide a caring environment for children safe from physical and sexual abuse.



Purpose of Training



- Provide a safe and secure environment for ministry to children, youth, adults, volunteers, members, visitors and paid staff.
- Assist COS Lutheran Church to evaluate a person's suitability for ministry with children and youth.
- Reduce the possibility of false accusations of abuse made against volunteers and paid staff.
- Provide a procedure to respond to allegations of abuse.

Screening Procedures



Christ Our Shepherd screens volunteers working with children and youth and reserves the right to refuse a volunteer's application.

Volunteers working with children and youth must attend the child safety class, fill out a volunteer application, and submit to the right for COS to perform a background check.

Forms



- Last page of **POLICY TO PREVENT ABUSE OF CHILDREN** must be signed and turned in to COS staff.
- **Screening Form for Volunteers in Youth Work**

“Child abuse casts a shadow the length of a lifetime.”

~Herbert Ward

Herbert Ward was an English soccer player who played as a forward until 1895 when he became a cricket player. Any child who has gone through some form of abuse will always remember the experience and will have a large effect on their feelings later in life.

Child Sexual Abuse Statistics



- The first child sexual abuse lawsuit was filed against a church in 1984. Since then, hundreds of claims have been filed resulting in millions of dollars of expenses.
- **FACT:** The real number of sexually abused children is not known because so many victims do not disclose or report their abuse.
- **FACT:** Even if the true prevalence of child sexual abuse is not known, most will agree that there will be 500,000 babies born in the US this year that will be sexually abused before they turn 18 if we do not prevent it.

Child Sexual Abuse Statistics



- Studies show that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men were sexually abused before the age of 18 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2006). This means there are more than 42 million adult survivors of child sexual abuse in the U.S.
- Contrary to popular belief, perpetrators of sexual abuse are well known to the child in 85 percent of reported cases.
- One in three sexual assault victims is under the age of 12. 43% percent of those are six and younger, 34% are 7-11.

Abuse in Our Community



Practically every day, we learn through the news & media of incidents of abuse, and, unfortunately, too often the incidents have happened at the church.

June 1, 2012, By JOANN LOVIGLIO
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — When the child sex abuse scandal at Penn State erupted last year, public anger was directed not only toward Jerry Sandusky, whose trial begins Monday, but toward the people around him who didn't report their suspicions to police.

Abuse in Your Community (Cont'd)



**Monday, June 4, 2012, By MARYCLAIRE
DALE**

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Monsignor William Lynn is charged with conspiracy and child endangerment for his handling of child sexual abuse complaints involving two priests.

Abuse in Your Community (Cont'd)



11Alive Staff, WXIA *7:14 p.m. EST March 4, 2014*

A report given to Congress by the Georgia Department of Health and Human Services says Georgia has the sixth worst child fatality rate in the nation.

The year Georgia earned that ranking, 77 children died from abuse or neglect. An even newer state report says in 2012 maltreatment was either the direct cause or contributing factor in the deaths of 83 young lives.

Abuse in Your Community (Cont'd)



Sunday, June 10, 2012, By [Marcus K. Garner](#) and [Alan Judd](#)

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

The Rev. Creflo Dollar Jr. took to the pulpit of his south Fulton County megachurch Sunday to proclaim his innocence of charges that he choked and beat his 15-year-old daughter.

Abuse in Your Community (Cont'd)



April 11, 2012, By Ty Tagami

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

A delay cost a Cobb County school principal and counselor their jobs. The school board voted Wednesday to fire Jerry Dority, who was principal at Tapp Middle School in Powder Springs, and counselor Yatta Collins. Both had been recommended for termination by tribunals comprising three school board members. They were accused of failing to report an incident of suspected child sexual abuse to authorities in a timely manner.

How can we Prevent this in our Church?



Educating and Screening ALL Volunteers

Conducting Background Checks

Following Appropriate Behaviors Guidelines

Identifying Prohibited Behaviors

Fulfilling Reporting Requirements

Supervision Guidelines



Christ Our Shepherd staff and volunteers will abide by the following guidelines when working with children and youth.

There will be two (2) supervisors present when caring for minor children/youth under the auspices of Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Supervision Guidelines (Cont'd)



Optimally, two adults (age 21 or older) will be available, however, one (1) supervisor must be an adult (age 21 or older) the other supervisor must be age 16 or older. In special circumstances, with approval from the appropriate program Ministry Leaders, youth (age 14 or older) may be allowed to supervise children when an unrelated adult (age 21 or older) is present.

Supervision Guidelines (Cont'd)



In the event that enough workers are not present to meet the 2 supervisor requirement, the supervisor must take steps to compensate. Some possible solutions include, open classroom doors, roving second worker who randomly moves from one class to another, having a someone available to go to any class where a supervisor has a situation where he/she might be alone with one child. Planning and staffing for two people is to be the norm.

Supervision Guidelines (Cont'd)



No staff member or other supervisor should be alone with an unrelated child or youth, whether at church facilities, or at any off-site activity. If one-on-one counseling is required, doors should be left open unless the facility is such that those present in a closed area may be clearly observed by others.

Supervision Guidelines (Cont'd)



Overnight Functions: No adult should share a room with a child or youth (unless they are related to that child/youth), without a second adult present at all times. Youth may be in one room together, while one or more adults are in an adjoining room.

Other situations: No staff member or volunteer should be alone with a child or youth in their car. If a situation arises, and a child or youth requires transportation, another unrelated adult should be present.

Supervision Guidelines (Cont'd)



No one person should be left on church premises alone with children or youth, waiting for parents to pick up. At least two supervisors, as noted previously, should stay until all children or youth have been retrieved by parents or other authorized persons.

Appropriate Behaviors



The following are appropriate behaviors for adults to use in relating to minors when working or volunteering for the church.

- Listen carefully to children and show interest in what they have to say.
- Pray that our children may grow in faith in God and respect for each other and creation.
- Be fair and consistent.

Appropriate Behaviors (Cont'd)



- Have a sense of humor, be flexible and giving, smile often.
- Focus on positive behaviors and praise him/her for that behavior.
- Set clear limits that can be managed by adults and understood by children.
- Use appropriate, positive, steps when discipline is needed and focus on the behavior, not the child.

Prohibited Behavior



The following behaviors, particularly those defined by the Law of the State of Georgia, are prohibited for all paid employees and volunteers of Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church.

- Corporal Punishment, which is use of physical force to discipline a child.
- Physical abuse, which is any physical injury inflicted by an adult on a child by other than accidental means.

Prohibited Behavior



- Sexual abuse, which is a person's employing, using persuading, inducing, enticing, or coercing any minor to engage in any sexual act as defined by the Law of the State of Georgia.
- Sexual exploitation, which is conduct by a child's parent or caretaker that allows, permits, encourages or requires that a child engage in prostitution or child pornography.
- Inappropriate touching or fondling of a sexual nature of a minor by any other person or engaging in any sexual act in front of a minor.

Molester Characteristics



No one can “spot an abuse” by how they look or dress...most look like you and me.

Molesters groom children for sexual abuse. The grooming process is as follows:

- 1) Molesters gain access to children
- 2) They select the child
- 3) Introduction to nudity and sexual touch
- 4) Molesters keep the victim silent with threats

Male Molester Characteristics



- Likely to have a poor self-image
- Rarely a team player
- Poor self-discipline and impulse control
- Unstable work history
- Prefers interaction with children over adults
- Pattern of dating single mothers
- Have been abused during his own childhood
- Choose hobbies that attract children
- Describes children as possessions

Female Molester Characteristics



- Illogical or bazaar thinking patterns
- Unemployed or underemployed
- Easily angered
- Socially isolated
- Married when a teenage
- Abused during her own childhood
- Raised in a strict home
- Caregiver for abused children

Physical Indicators of Physical Abuse



The physical indicators of physical abuse include:

- Unexplained bruises and welts on face, lips, mouth, torso, back, buttocks or thighs
- Bruises and welts may be in various stages of healing, clustered, or form patterns
- Bite marks
- Unexplained fractures or dislocations
- Unexplained burns or burns in the shape of an object
- Bald patches on the scalp
- High or frequent incidence of "accidents"

Physical Indicators of Neglect



The physical indicators of neglect include:

- Underweight, poor growth patterns, failure to thrive
- Poor hygiene (chronicity, child age)
- Lack of needed clothing (chronicity)
- Consistent hunger in the morning
- Evidence of no or poor supervision
- Unattended physical problems or medical or dental needs

Physical Indicators of Sexual Abuse



The physical indicators of sexual abuse include:

- Difficulty in walking or sitting
- Torn, stained or bloody underclothing
- Pain, swelling or itching in genital area
- Pain upon urination
- Bruises, bleeding or lacerations in external genitalia
- Sexually transmitted disease

Areas to Watch / Potential Risks



- Stairwells
- Washrooms adjacent to the Fellowship Hall (Near exit door)
- Fellowship Hall exit door (Easy access to street, path, etc.)
- Loft (Has great appeal to kids! If used, children must be supervised by 2 adults!)

If A Child Reports Abuse



- Listen and respond calmly
- Be patient
- Tell the child that you believe him/her & assure them it is not their fault
- Do not interrogate the child by asking details or asking shaming questions
- Write down what the child told you in detail
- Report to your supervisor immediately

Reporting Requirements



Mandated Reporters

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church requires all of its paid personnel and volunteers to report their belief or knowledge of the abuse of minors while engaging in the ministries of Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Reporting Requirements (Cont'd)



Reporting Alleged Violations

All paid personnel and volunteers of Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church are to report alleged violations of prohibited behaviors to the staff person associated with their ministry. That staff person shall report to the senior pastor. All such reports shall be made in compliance with the law of the State of Georgia.

What Information Should You Report?



Be prepared to provide the following information if known:

- Name, age, home address and current location of the child
- Name and address of the child's parents or caretakers
- Name and address of suspected perpetrator, if known
- Locations where abuse took place, if known
- Nature and extent of injuries, including any evidence of previous injuries
- Any other information the reporter believes might be helpful

The information will be screened and passed onto the appropriate authorities

What Are The Penalties For Not Reporting?



Any person or official required by Georgia law to report suspected cases of child abuse and who knowingly and willfully fails to do so shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. A misdemeanor is a crime that is less serious than a felony, but can still be punishable by fine or incarceration in a county jail.



What Happens When You Make A Report?



Your job as a mandated reporter is to assure that DFCS is contacted whenever you have reason to believe that a child has been abused or neglected.

It is the job of DFCS to take your information and evaluate if, based on state law, it should be opened for investigation. If you provided contact information, you will receive a written acknowledgement of your report from DFCS. It should indicate if it was assigned for investigation.

Thank You



We appreciate your dedication to keeping the children and youth of Christ Our Shepherd safe. Let's help nurture their spiritual growth in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.