



NAD Youth Ministries Safety Resources

WHAT SHOULD THE CHURCH DO WITH INDIVIDUALS WHERE ALLEGATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE

If it is alleged that an individual has shown inappropriate conduct toward children, the following guidelines have been developed for implementation:

1. Don't try to handle the situation yourself and don't talk to the alleged offender before you call DHS (Child Protective Services) or law enforcement.
2. Report to DHS (Child Protective Services), or Law enforcement.
3. Report to your church pastor or first elder. Church administration is to notify conference administration and legal counsel of the situation.
4. Don't allow any further contact between the child and alleged offender unless Child Protective Services tells you it is alright.
5. Remove the individual from all church responsibilities until evaluated. The church should respect the rights of all parties involved in the alleged incident and treat all matters concerning the situation discreetly, confidentially, and in accordance with local Child Protective Services.
6. Provide appropriate supervision for the individual when they attend any church events.

If alleged offender is causing custodial interference (interfering with parental control of the child), seek assistance from law enforcement.

Reporting is considered a request for an assessment of a suspected incident of abuse or neglect. Remember a report is not an established fact of guilt, but rather a request for assessment of the safety and condition of a child. It is the beginning of a helping process for children and families. All citizens are encouraged to report suspected cases to DHS or law enforcement.

Helpful Child Protection Resources:

<http://adventistyouthministries.org/safety-resources/abuse-prevention>

<https://adventistrisk.org/en-US/Safety-Resources/Pathfinder-Safety>

http://adventistyouthministries.org/files/safety-guidelines/Sex_Offenders_PART_4.pdf

https://adventistrisk.org/Adventist_Risk/media/ARM/Resource%20Page/PDFs/English/GUIDE_SexOffender_sInChurch_NADENG.pdf?ext=.pdf

<https://adventistrisk.org/en-US/Safety-Resources/Solutions-Newsletter/When-A-Predator-Attacks>