

ANCHOR POINT BIBLE CHURCH

MINISTRY PROTECTION TRAINING

Protecting Children... Protecting Yourself in Ministry

PURPOSE AND GOALS OF WORKSHOP:

1. To review principles of awareness for church policies and procedures to continue to protect our children and to be aware of sexual abuse issues as it relates to our ministry at Anchor Point Bible Church (APBC).
2. To be aware of sexual abuse laws to protect ministry workers from being falsely accused of sexual abuse.
3. To take our awareness into action to better protect our children and to be able to distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate behavior.
4. To introduce principles that are the basis for the Children and Youth Department policies and procedures regarding child sexual abuse issues.
5. To give the procedure of what a ministry worker is to do in the event they become aware of an abuse situation of children in our ministry.
6. To inform our ministry workers of the procedure that will be followed in the event of an accusation of sexual abuse by a ministry worker of APBC.
7. To give a message to families of APBC that our ministry workers have the highest regard for the safety of their children, and that we are responsible in our leadership by training, screening, and keeping accountable those who are working with their precious children.

TO REVIEW PRINCIPLES OF AWARENESS FOR CHURCH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO CONTINUE TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN AND TO BE AWARE OF SEXUAL ABUSE ISSUES AS IT RELATES TO OUR MINISTRY AT APBC.

✝ **We are here because:**

- 1) We want to be _____ in caring for and protecting the children that we minister to.
- 2) We live in a _____ world and child sexual abuse is a _____ problem.
- 3) We want to inform and protect our ministry volunteers from being _____ of sexual abuse at APBC.
- 4) We do not want there to be an _____ of sexual abuse at our Church.
- 5) Our Insurance company requires us to provide training and screening to continue our coverage.

✝ **What we are NOT here for?**

- 1) We are **NOT** here to look for something that _____.
- 2) We are **NOT** here to create a climate of _____.
- 3) We are **NOT** here to promote _____.
- 4) We are **NOT** here because a _____ has been identified.

TO BE AWARE OF MICHIGAN STATE LAWS TO PROTECT MINISTRY STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS FROM BEING FALSELY ACCUSED OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.

✝ APBC will comply with the Provisions Act Number 238 of the Public Acts of 1975 as amended (1988), of the Michigan Compiled Laws, and known as the **Child Protection Law**.

✝ Definitions from Michigan State Law

- ✓ “_____” means a person under _____ years of age.
- ✓ “**Child** _____” means harm or threatened harm to a child’s health or welfare by a person responsible for the child’s health or welfare which occurs through non-accidental physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, maltreatment, or exploitation.

(Definitions Continued)

✓ **“Child _____”** means harm to a child’s health or welfare by a person responsible for the child’s health or welfare which occurs through:

- negligent treatment, including the failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, or medical care.
- placing a child at an unreasonable risk to the child's health or welfare by failure of the person responsible to intervene to eliminate that risk when that person is able to do so and has, or should have, knowledge of the risk.

✓ **“_____ abuse”** means engaging in any sexual contact with a child for the sexual gratification of an adult or older child.

Sexual abuse falls into two categories: _____ and _____.

TO TAKE OUR AWARENESS INTO ACTION
TO BEST PROTECT OUR CHILDREN
AND TO BE ABLE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN
APPROPRIATE AND INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

✝ **What is appropriate and inappropriate touch?**

- 1) Children do need positive touches that express _____ & _____.
- 2) Physical contact should be in _____ of other people.
- 3) An appropriate hug is from the _____, not the front.
- 4) High fives and hand holding during prayer is appropriate behavior.
- 5) During games and activities, leaders should be _____ to the possibility of physical contact.



Remember that children may respond differently to what we have identified as positive touch because of a past _____ experience.

Any observations of questionable touch & interaction will be addressed by a member of the Pastoral Staff

WHAT A MINISTRY WORKER IS TO DO IN THE EVENT THEY BECOME AWARE OF AN ABUSE SITUATION OF CHILDREN IN OUR MINISTRY,

- ✝ If you become aware of a child that is involved in our ministries who is in an abuse situation through a church program or other arena of their life you _____ report in accordance with Michigan State Law to one of the designated reporters of APBC. **(This person(s) is one of the pastoral staff.)**
- ✝ If a child confides in you of having been abused or neglected, only relate this information to one of the pastoral staff. _____ tell any other ministry worker or other person.
- ✝ The designated reporter will contact the proper authorities (Local Law Enforcement and Department of Social Services).
- ✝ In the event of media inquiry into any alleged sexual abuse issue _____ information will come through APBC's media spokesperson (Pastor Rob — or in his absence, Pastor James).

TO INFORM OUR MINISTRY WORKERS OF THE PROCEDURES THAT WILL BE FOLLOWED IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCUSATION OF SEXUAL ABUSE BY A MINISTRY WORKER OF APBC.

- ✝ **Upon the report of a sexual abuse allegation to the designated reporter, an oral report will be given immediately to Department of Social Service and a written report within 72 hours with full cooperation from Anchor Point Bible Church and its leadership.**
- ✝ **After the initial investigation of MDHHS you will be contacted by the Elders and/or the Pastoral Staff to communicate the following:**
 - To inform to any response you may have to the allegations.
 - To inform you that you are immediately suspended of all ministries you are involved in at APBC until after the investigation is complete.
 - To inform you that there is to be no further _____ by any means with an accuser or informer until the investigation is complete.
 - To inform you of Anchor Point Bible Church's commitment to _____ cooperate with the MDHHS during the investigation.
 - To inform you of our commitment to be a _____ to you and your family during this time.
- ✝ **Based on the results of the MDHHS investigation the following actions may be taken.**
 - The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services will refer the allegations to the proper authorities for further examination.
 - In the event the MDHHS communicates a negative finding through their investigation the suspension from ministries will be lifted.

PRINCIPLES OF AWARENESS FOR CHURCH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO CONTINUE TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

† The “_____” principle.

- We practice the buddy system, when at all possible, when transporting children. If you cannot schedule a buddy, communicate to someone who you are taking home, your route, and scheduled time of travel.
- We have a 24 hour camera recording system for every room inside the church and utilize a camera recorder in the church van (it can be moved to different vehicles if needed).
- Report any sexual abuse conduct of a ministry worker to the Pastoral Staff, who are the designated reporters of child abuse at Anchor Point Bible Church.

† The “_____” principle.

- When meeting/visiting/counseling individually with children, do so in a public area where there is a regular traffic flow of people.
- If the meeting/visit/counseling is happening at church, do so when other people are present in the church building, or call someone to make yourself accountable and responsible.

† The “avoid all _____ of _____” principle.

- Identify key areas of risk and situations where a potential abuse situation could occur and establish the appropriate policy and procedure.

TO GIVE A MESSAGE TO OUR FAMILIES THAT OUR MINISTRY WORKERS HAVE THE HIGHEST REGARD FOR THE SAFETY OF THEIR CHILDREN WITH TRAINING, SCREENING AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

† Anchor Point Bible Church has the following in operation to aid in the training, screening, and accountability of all children’s and youth ministry workers.

- 1) All adult ministry workers who work with those under eighteen years of age must have completed this Protection Workshop and have an understanding and agreement with our policies.
- 2) A volunteer ministry worker application with references to be completed (for new volunteers).
- 3) A Criminal Records Check for any history of child or sexual abuse. The check is specific to this area of inquiry and does not infringe on any other police records or convictions.
- 4) All workers must agree to not teach contrary to APBC’s Doctrinal Statement. Any areas of doctrinal differences must be deferred to a pastor or elder if it arises in the scope of teaching materials.
- 5) Ongoing training and encouragement for ministry workers.
- 6) Special recognition and appreciation for those involved in volunteer ministry.