CHILDREN AND YOUTH WORKER SAFETY WORKSHOP

Welcome to the online version of Pekin First Nazarene's Children and Youth Worker Safety workshop. Thank you for recognizing the importance of this step in order to work with the children, age birth through 18, of our church.

Pekin First Nazarene children and youth ministries exist to help kids become Christ followers and to teach them how to follow Jesus the rest of their lives. The information for this class is taken from the most current version of Reducing the Risk. This program maps out how to implement or add to a safety program already in use.

Our church has taken a proactive approach to safety training. Parents entrust the church with the most important thing in their lives, their children. We understand that real spiritual growth can only take place in a safe environment, a place where kid's questions and their journey to God are honored and protected.

DVD 1: Child Protection as the Foundation of Your Ministry (5 minutes)

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3. This _____ our trust in one another.

Actually, just the opposite occurs. As members recognize that their church cares deeply about the welfare of the youth and children, their trust will increase. Having a safety program in place puts us all on the same page, sharing our desire for our children to learn about Christ in a safe environment.

4. This is too complex and too time consuming to_____.

American society will no longer excuse faith communities from the protection of children. We can all agree that churches will be held accountable and that there is no excuse for us not to protect our children.

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potential victims in an atmosphere of complete trust…the church.

Effective ministry can only take place if a child feels _____.

When it comes to child sexual abuse, many people still don't believe that the danger is real. When a child has a good ministry experience, they're more likely to _____ in their faith and stay involved with the church/ministry. When a child is a victim of sexual abuse the effects are devastating and last the child's lifetime.

"SAFETY IS ONE AREA YOU CAN'T EVER COMPROMISE ON OR THE WHOLE MINISTRY IS AT RISK. YOU NEED TO BAT 1,000 EVERY TIME."

DVD 3: Sexual Abuse in Faith Communities: An Expert Roundtable (9 minutes)

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forgiveness of God in this person's life, but we will not place them in a place of temptation.

2. Church is _____ susceptible when it does not have proper screening.

   Predators may "groom" their victims and/or the victims' parents. They may offer them cash, gifts, trips, or fun experiences. They may be a very charismatic, friendly person.

3. Victim isn't the only one _____.

   The true cost of child sexual abuse: financial, emotional, spiritual, and physical. Attendees may leave the church and it may destroy credibility and people's trust in the Church as a whole.

4. _____ of abuse

   Touching: fondling, oral, genital, anal penetration, intercourse, forcible rape

   Non-touching: verbal comments, pornographic videos, obscene phone calls, sexting, exhibitionism, allowing children to witness sexual activity

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self-consciousness,, “acting out” of sexual behavior, withdrawal from ministry activities and friends.

_____**:** ‘I don’t like [a particular worker],” “[A ministry worker] does things to me when we’re alone,” “I don’t like to be alone with [a ministry worker],” “[A ministry worker] fooled around with me.”

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_____– the ministry did not exercise sufficient care in supervising a worker.

Step 1 in safeguarding children in your ministry – _____

(ward off the opportunists)

5 Step Protection Plan – Pekin First Nazarene follows all 5 steps.

1. Adopt the _____rule. Establish a length of time that any person must attend your faith community before he/she can volunteer to work with children/youth. Each person working with kids age 0-18 at Pekin First Nazarene attends 6 months before beginning their ministry.
2. Use a written _____. It is a sceening tool to help you discern a staff or volunteer's suitability for working with children. Each person working with kids age 0-18 at Pekin First Nazarene fills out an application.
3. Conduct _____ checks. It is not sufficient to list only parents of children with whom the prospective volunteer may work with because predators may "groom" them. Please do not use a Pekin First Nazarene Staff member as your reference. Each person working with kids age 0-18 at Pekin First Nazarene has 2 reference checks conducted.
4. _____ each candidate to find out more about them and why they want to work with children/youth. We also review our ministry policies and procedures with each candidate. Each person working with kids age 0-18 at Pekin First Nazarene is interviewed by a SDMI Board and Safety Committee member.

5. Conduct additional _____. We enforce this practice consistently. Churches that conduct criminal records checks on volunteers who work with minors will be in a better position to defend themselves against an allegation of negligent selection than those who do not conduct such checks. Each person working with kids age 0-18 at Pekin First Nazarene has a background check run.

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1. _____:

Risk increases as isolation increases

Most, but not all, sexual abuse occurs in isolated settings

4 factors affect isolation

1. The number of people present
2. The time of the activity
3. The location of the activity
4. The physical arrangements

2. _____:

Risk increases as accountability decreases

The sexual abuse of children always occurs in settings without proper accountability. We have to hold each other accountable, watch each other, support and pray for each other.

3. _____:

Risk increases when there is an imbalance of power, authority, influence, and control between a potential abuser and a potential victim.

1 reason that children are so vulnerable is due to the imbalance of power related to age, size, strength, control, and authority.

Once abuse occurs, perpetrators will use their power, authority, and influence to promote silence.

Control can be exerted in many ways, both physically and psychologically.

Abusers may use grooming, blackmail, threats, physical force, or intimidation.

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DVD #7: legal Requirements: The Church's Responsibility to Protect kids (6

minutes)

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*27% of adult women and 16% of adult men claimed to have experienced some form of child sexual victimization.

*One in three sexual assault victims in under the age of 12. 43% of those are six and younger, 34% are 7 to 11.

*Child sexual abuse in America costs the nation 23 billion each year.

*90-95% of all sexual abuse cases are never reported to the police.

*Children with disabilities are 4 to 10 times more vulnerable to sexual abuse than their non-disabled peers.

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