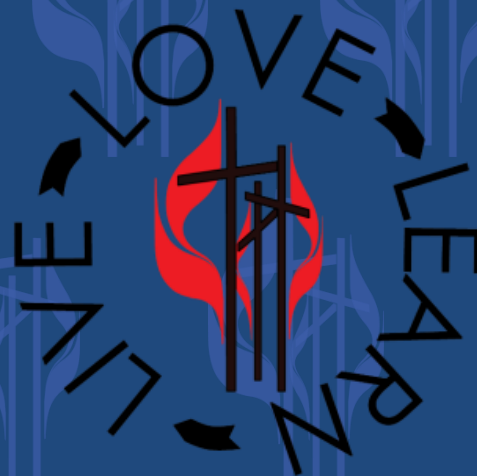




# Crossroads

United Methodist Church

# Safe Sanctuary Training



# Matthew 18:1-5

About this time the disciples came to Jesus and asked him who would be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus called a child over and had the child stand near him. Then he said, "I promise you this. If you don't change and become like a child, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. But if you are as humble as this child, you are the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And when you welcome one of these children because of me, you welcome me."



# Matthew 19:13-15

Some people brought their children to Jesus, so that he could place his hands on them and pray for them. His disciples told the people to stop bothering him. But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and don't try to stop them! People who are like these children belong to God's kingdom." After Jesus placed his hands on the children, he left.



# Ephesians 5:3-4

You are God's people, so don't let it be said that any of you are immoral or indecent or greedy. Don't use dirty or foolish or filthy words. Instead, say how thankful you are.



# The United Methodist Book of Discipline Paragraph 162c

*Rights of Children* – Once considered the property of their parents, children are now acknowledged to be full human beings in their own right, but beings to whom adults and society in general have special obligations. Thus, we support the development of school systems and innovative methods of education designed to assist every child toward complete fulfillment as an individual person of worth. All children have the right to quality education, including full sex education appropriate to their stage of development that utilizes the best educational techniques and insights. Christian parents and guardians and the Church have the responsibility to ensure that children receive sex education consistent with Christian morality, including faithfulness in marriage and abstinence in singleness. Moreover, children have the rights to food, shelter, clothing, health care, and emotional well-being as do adults, and these rights we affirm as theirs regardless of actions or inactions of their parents or guardians. In particular, children must be protected from economic, physical, emotional, and sexual exploitation and abuse.



It is the adult's  
responsibility to  
establish and  
maintain proper  
boundaries.



# Abuse

30% of Children experience  
abuse or neglect

80% of victims know their  
abuser

70% of those abused are  
under the age of 3

There are 3 million reports of  
abuse annually



There are over 9000  
registered sex offenders  
in Missouri

[familywatchdog.us/search.asp](http://familywatchdog.us/search.asp)

[mshp.dps.missouri.gov/MSHP/](http://mshp.dps.missouri.gov/MSHP/)

[PatrolDivision/CRID/SOR/](#)

[SORPage.html](#)





# Abuse

Abuse is defined as any physical injury, sexual abuse, verbal, or emotional abuse inflicted on a child, other than by accident, by those responsible for the child's care, custody and control. Discipline, including spanking, when administered in a reasonable manner, is not considered as abuse.

***The policies of CrossRoads do not, however, condone or permit the spanking or striking in any fashion, of any child at any time when the child is placed with the supervisory care of CrossRoads.***



# Neglect

**Withholding...**

Affection

Medical Care

Nutrition

Proper Clothing

Education



# Physical Abuse

A deliberate act  
that inflicts  
bodily harm.



# Sexual Abuse

Sexual Contact

Sexually Explicit Language

Sexual Gestures

Presenting Sexual Images



# Sexual Harassment

A verbal and/or physical advance or demand which is perceived by the recipient as sexually demeaning, intimidating or coercive.



# Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is any kind of abuse that is emotional rather than physical in nature. It can include anything from verbal abuse and constant criticism to more subtle tactics, such as intimidation, manipulation, and refusal to ever be pleased. Emotional abuse is like brain washing in that it systematically wears away at the victim's self-confidence, sense of self-worth, trust in their own perceptions, and self-concept.

Whether it is done by constant berating and belittling, by intimidation, or under the guise of "guidance," "teaching," or "advice," the results are similar.



It is the adult's  
responsibility to...

Set appropriate boundaries

Maintain safety

Give direction

Discipline appropriately



# Warning signs of an abused child

Withdrawn demeanor

Bizarre fantasies

Infantile behavior

Sophisticated sexual behavior or knowledge

Poor peer relationships

Delinquency or running away

Fear of a particular person

Fear of going home





# Signs of Abuse

Difficulty walking or sitting

Torn, stained or bloody underclothing

Pain or itching in the genital area

Bruises or bleeding in external genitalia

Venereal disease, especially in preteens

Pregnancy

Poor hygiene

Begging for food

Untreated medical conditions

Inappropriate clothing for the climate



# Warning signs of an abused child continued

Anxiety, aggression, depression

Nightmares and/or bed wetting

Flashbacks

Unexplained mood swings

Lack of trust

Eating disorders



# Signs a child may be uncomfortable with being touched.

Arms folded in front of chest

No eye contact

Rigid body

Stepping or squirming away

Hands in front of body

Turning to the side

Making faces or sounds of dislike



# What to do!

If you witness or are aware of child abuse, immediately inform the pastor, Kids First director, and/or leader of the event.

Make sure the child is safe.

Call the proper authorities.

Write down what you saw and experienced.



# Touching Guidelines

Do not touch intimate or private places.

Do not touch in a prolonged or intense way.

Consider the relationship you have with the person.

Consider who initiated the contact.

Consider the motivation of the touch.

Consider the age of the person.

Consider the culture of the person.





# Safe Touches

Shake hands

Lightly touch shoulder

Lightly touch hand

High five

A-frame hug

Sideways hug



# Youth Can Be at Risk

Willing to take risks

Believe they are anonymous on the internet

Believe they can handle the risks

Rebellious

Attracted to subcultures

Isolated – lonely

Curious and like to try new, edgy activities



# Guard Personal Information

Don't give out:

Names

Phone numbers

Email or social media

Pictures





# Use of Technology

Monitor use of electronic devices

Cyber-bullying

Stalking and online predators

Sale of drugs

Pornography



# What should you do when you suspect abuse or neglect?

CALL THE HOTLINE AT 1-800-392-3738, The Children's Division staff this hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. They will take information from you and respond to child abuse and neglect. If you live outside Missouri and want to report abuse or neglect of a Missouri child, call (573) 751-3448.

Notice to Mandated Reporters, Effective August 28, 2004: If you are required to report child abuse or neglect because of your occupation, you may no longer make an anonymous call to the Hotline.



# Have complete information

HAVE COMPLETE INFORMATION. Children's Division needs specific information to be able to respond to a complaint of abuse or neglect.

Be sure you have:  
the name of the child  
the name of the parent(s)  
the name of the alleged abuser  
where the child can be located

You will also be asked:

Is the child in a life-threatening situation now?

How do you know about the abuse/neglect?

Did you witness the abuse/neglect?

Were there other witnesses

and how can they be contacted?



# CONSIDER IDENTIFYING YOURSELF

If you are not required by occupation to report, you don't have to identify yourself when you make a hotline call, however being able to contact you later helps CD workers do a more thorough investigation. They may need to ask you for more information during the investigation process.



# What if you're not sure it's abuse or neglect?

You can call the Cass County office at (816) 380-3597 to discuss your concerns. They can advise you whether or not to call the hotline. They can also give you advice that might help you help the family in crisis.

Err on the side of over-reporting. If you have the thought "Maybe I should call . . ." -- DO! Not all calls to the hotline are determined to be abuse/neglect.

However, CD can often provide services and assistance that can help families prevent abuse.



# Crossroads' Safe Sanctuary Policies

These guidelines are meant to enhance the safety of our children, youth, and adult workers during any church activity, on-site or off-site.

## **Adult to Child or Youth Ratio**

### **Low Risk Event**

Elementary & middle school 1 Adult: 7 Youth, but minimum of two adults present

Senior High 1 Adult: 10 Youth, but minimum of two adults present

### **High Risk Event (Overnight)**

Elementary and middle school 1 Adult: 4 Youth, but minimum of two adults present

Senior High 1 Adult: 5 Youth, but minimum of two adults present



# Crossroads' Safe Sanctuary Policies

We follow a “Two-Adult Rule” which requires that no fewer than two adults be present at all times during any church-sponsored program, event, or ministry involving children or youth. If the necessity for one-on-one interaction between adults and children or youth arises, the interactions should occur in an unenclosed area or with the knowledge of another adult. Workers are to be encouraged to warn each other when questionable behavior is displayed.

Husband/Wife teams must have the presence of another unrelated adult except in Sunday School classes.



# Crossroads' Safe Sanctuary Policies

Hugs need to be side to side.

No front to front hugs (except infants-preschoolers).

No kissing.

If a spontaneous hug is initiated by a youth, the adult is to briefly return the gesture and then break away.





# Crossroads' Safe Sanctuary Policies

## Check In-Check Out

For the Nursery, KidsQuest, and KidsFirst programs: Parents or grandparents must check children into and out of care so that we have each child's complete name and contact information. Parents or Grandparents must have on file specific names of who is allowed to check their child out of our care. If the person checking the child out is not known to the staff, the person must show his or her ID before the child will be released to them.

All youth must sign in and out at each event.

Elementary and middle school children may not leave an event until the end, unless a parent or adult signs them out and designates with whom they left.



# Crossroads' Safe Sanctuary Policies

## Travel

Adult sponsors are to drive to off-property events.

A youth may drive to an event if written parental permission was turned in ahead of time.

A youth driver may not drive other youth to a church-sponsored event.

Youth need to return in the same car in which they went to the event.

General travel permits (such as for KidsFirst) need to be updated and signed by the parent annually.



# Crossroads' Safe Sanctuary Policies

## Respect for Privacy

Adult leaders must respect the privacy of youth in such situations as changing into swimming suits or taking showers on overnights and intrude only to the extent that health and safety require. The leaders also need to protect their own privacy in similar situations.



# Crossroads' Safe Sanctuary Policies

## Accommodations

Sleeping arrangements will be evaluated before each event. Parents and youth will be informed and permission slips must be signed by parents.

**“Pink-Blue” Rule** should apply to overnights (at least 2 female leaders with girls and 2 male leaders with boys) **OR** same sex youth in a room with no adults.



# Crossroads' Safe Sanctuary Policies

## Supervision

There will be no childcare workers under the age of eighteen. Workers with youth must be at least five years older than the youth with whom they are working.

Each room being used for children and youth activities will have a door with a window in it or a half door. Any draperies will be left open.

A meeting of all adult chaperones should be held prior to each high risk event to discuss group rules for the event.

Youth should be divided into groups and assigned to specific adults for supervision at high risk events.



Staff and volunteers are  
mandatory reporters

Missouri Division of  
Family Services

Youth or Children 1-800-392-3738

Elder Abuse 1-800-392-0210



## **Failure to File a Report of Abuse or Neglect**

Any individual who is responsible for the care, custody and control of a child during any part of a 24 hour day who fails to make, or cause a report to be made, to the Division of Family Services may be found guilty of a misdemeanor.

## **Immunity for Good Faith Reporting**

Any person who complies with the reporting requirements relating to abuse and neglect is immune from civil and criminal liability.



# Safe Sanctuary Quiz

To complete your certification, please visit the Safe Sanctuary Quiz page by clicking the tab below, answer the questions online, and click submit. You will be notified of your results via email.

[Safe Sanctuary Quiz](#)

## Background Screening

All volunteers must consent to a background screening. Click the link on the quiz page above to access the consent form.

