

Safeguarding Our Children and Youth: Policy on Physical, Sexual and Emotional Misconduct

Session adopted the current policy, a supplement to the Presbytery of New Hope's policy, on October 25, 2004 in an effort to prevent abuse and false accusations of abuse.

GUIDELINES:

Two Adult Rule -

- Two adults should be present at all times when involved in a program with children and youth.

Age requirements -

- One caregiver should be 21 years or older if children are 2 years old and the group size is less than 10.
- One caregiver should be 18 years old or older if the children are over 2 years old and the groups size is less than 10.
- A youth 12 years old or older may be counted as an adult if another caregiver meets the above requirements.

Physical Environment –

- Physical surroundings and group size should allow adequate space and visibility for monitoring the group. Visual access must be provided.

Volunteer Covenant Statement and Background Checks –

- Criminal background checks are performed on all paid nursery staff and all youth advisors.
- If the statement cannot be signed or the background check reveals negative findings, these facts will be referred to the appropriate staff and team for action.

Church Membership

- All teachers, nursery volunteers and youth advisors must be church members for at least 6 months. All others must be especially approved by Session.

Parents and Guardians Welcome

- Parents and guardians of children and youth are welcome to visit, participate in or chaperone programs in which their child is participating.

Sections not pertaining to Sunday School and "Procedures for Reporting and Handling Violations" have been omitted from this summary. The full document is available in the church office.