

ABUSE PREVENTION FOR STUDENT MINISTRIES JR. AND SR. HI

STAFF (adult and student staff)

1. All volunteers must complete applications before being considered for service.
2. Volunteers will arrive at least ten minutes before student meetings are scheduled to begin. At least one volunteer will remain with student groups at all times (See the one on one counseling policy for more information regarding limitations for adult presence.)
3. Volunteer students may not initiate formal ministry gatherings without the knowledge of the Student Ministries Director and attendance of approved adult volunteers.
4. The Student Ministries Director will notify volunteers of where he or she can be located in case of emergency.
5. The Student Ministries Director will review ECRC policies regarding abuse prevention with all volunteers at the start of the season.
6. Specific permission from a parent or legal guardian is necessary for a volunteer adult to give any student a ride home. If, after reasonable attempt, a parent or legal guardian cannot be contacted or is excessively late in arriving to collect their child(ren), the Student Ministries Director or an approved volunteer adult will provide transportation, if there is no other way.

ONE-ON-ONE COUNSELING

1. When a Youth Group member initiates a meeting with a Staff Person, this meeting should occur in a public place. If the member is uncomfortable meeting publicly because of the nature of their problem, another staff person of the same sex as the member should be in attendance.
2. Parents will be notified before the scheduling of a third private meeting, and any successive meetings, between a member and the Director of Student Ministries. Parents will be informed of the nature of the problem at the discretion of the Director of Student Ministries.
3. Because God gives those who work with youth a sincere love for each of them, we are vitally interested in their lives and any problems (including abuse). The youth should feel comfortable in sharing these problems with us whenever they so desire.
4. Staff will keep a written record of each meeting.

OVERNIGHT OUTINGS/WORK PROJECTS

1. Parental consent/medical release forms will be required from each youth group member, within a month of the beginning of each school year. Forms will be available from the Director of Student Ministries or Church administrative office.
2. Sleeping areas will be off limits to members of the opposite sex.
3. Male/female contact will not be allowed after the designated bedtime.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Each year the high school ministry will address principles of dating with students.
2. Volunteer adults may not date or engage in any romantic activity with a Jr. or Sr. Hi student
3. Volunteer students serving with Jr Hi must have completed the 10th grade. Volunteer adults serving with Jr or Sr Hi must be at least 18 years old.
4. Level 1 interns must have completed 10th grade. Level 2 interns must have completed high school. Level 3 interns must have completed 2 years of college.
5. In the context of group activities, volunteer adults will provide supervision of students in the care. Volunteers will not host any ministry function without sufficient supervision.
6. When group activities are hosted away from the church site, volunteer adults will ensure the policies and procedures of both the hosting location and ECRC are followed.
7. To remain above reproach, displays of affection between volunteers and students will be limited, brief and appropriate (i.e. no sustained hugs, holding hands, etc.) These displays should only be exercised in public areas. Displays of affection between students will be monitored and limited.
8. Gifts, letters, emails and calls from volunteers to students must be appropriate and limited for the sake of avoiding any misinterpretation of intent.
 1. Any person suspected of using drugs or alcohol is to be reported to the Student Ministries Director by the observer.