

Child Protection Policy of the Huntingdon Christian and Missionary Alliance Church

It is the policy of the Huntingdon Christian and Missionary and Alliance Church to prevent child abuse in any form, physical, emotional, verbal and sexual. This policy is also designed to protect persons with disabilities, the elderly and persons in ministry. To provide a safe environment the following policy has been established:

1. In order to assure physical security, it is Church policy that doors to the outside be either secured or monitored and that people not be allowed to wander the building or loiter unsupervised during times of ministry,
 - a. Main hallways and rest rooms will be monitored during Sunday and Wednesday Ministry hours by both usher and ministry staff;
 - b. Doors designated by the Board will be locked to outside use during class or ministry activity.
2. In order to assure an atmosphere which is not conducive to child abuse or any appearance of impropriety:
 - a. All class room and office doors shall have a window which allows persons outside the room to monitor activities inside (if the classroom has no window, the door should be left open during class).
 - b. Christian education workers should avoid being alone with minors.
 - c. An effort will be made to assign two workers in all children's and nursery age classes.
3. In order to assure that employees or volunteers are suited for ministry with children and youth and that they do not have a record of child or sexual abuse a screening procedure shall be implemented
 - a. All employees and volunteers wishing to be involved in children or youth ministries will complete a Lay Ministry Application or similar written application.
 - b. Lay Ministry Applications shall be kept on file and shall be updated periodically.
 - c. All persons in ministry will be brought to the Governing Board for approval following the Sunday School Superintendent's, AWANA Commander's, CE Director's or Youth Pastor's recommendation.
4. A list of approved children and youth workers will be maintained in the Church Office.
5. All volunteers must have accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior and have been attending services of and supporting the Huntingdon Christian and Missionary Alliance Church for six months before he or she can be involved in teaching or leading positions in children and youth ministries. An exception to this may be made if a good reference is received from the pastor of the home or previously attended church.
6. Persons convicted of any sexual offenses or crimes against children or youth will not be allowed to serve in children and youth ministries.
7. Any person who is aware of an alleged incidence of child abuse on church property or during a church sponsored activity shall report it to the Senior Pastor or an Elder immediately and shall make notification to Childline (800-932-0313) or Huntingdon County Childrens Services (643-3270) as required by law. In the case of reporting the above mentioned abuse, the District Superintendent or the Assistant District Superintendent of the Western Pennsylvania District of the Christian and Missionary Alliance will be contacted immediately by the Senior Pastor or the Chairman of the Governing Board. Ministry staff and volunteers shall report suspected abuse which does not occur on church property or in sponsored activities by calling Childline or Childrens Services as above.
8. The Christian Education Committee will conduct an annual review of this policy with Christian Education employees and volunteers. Workers will be asked to sign the policy indicating that they have read and understand it.
9. Nothing in this policy shall prevent parents from serving in helping roles upon recommendation and supervision of the approved teacher or leader.

This policy was approved and established by the Governing Board on July 18, 2006.

I have reviewed the above policy and agree to adhere to it

_____ NAME

_____ DATE