



Bible-Based Fellowship Church | Youth Protection Policy

It is the policy of Bible Based Fellowship Church to protect the well-being of any of the minors or children that are left in the care of staff members or other volunteers. The church will always cooperate with authorities and work with the parents (if permissible) on any serious situation. To protect the rights of children and preserve their safety, the church adheres to the following policies:

Abuse Reporting:

Florida Statue 39.201 states Any person who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare, as defined in this chapter, or that a child is in need of supervision and care and has no parent, legal custodian, or responsible adult relative immediately known and available to provide supervision and care shall report such knowledge or suspicion to the Florida Abuse Hotline (1-800-962-2873).

1. When a child informs a representative of the church of a situation that they are experiencing, or the representative is aware of situation regarding the welfare of the child, the Senior Pastor or Youth Pastor must be immediately informed. They become responsible for reporting any alleged abuse to the Florida Abuse Hotline. The information is confidential and should not be shared with other CG partners.
2. The church cannot legally ignore potentially harmful situations All situations will be handled forthrightly with due respect for people's privacy and confidentiality. Full cooperation will be given to local child welfare authorities when applicable.
3. No accused (parent, guardian, volunteer, child etc.) will be addressed by anyone other than the established authorities until the safety of the child or victim is secured AND permissible by the authorities.
4. No victim, involved in an allegation or anyone responsible for reporting an allegation will be retaliated against.

Investigation of An Allegation

5. All allegations of abuse will be discussed with the Senior Pastor or Youth Pastor by the partner or church representative
6. All allegations will be investigated expeditiously by established local authorities
7. The church should not conduct an internal investigation by interviewing alleged victim, parents or accused and/or refuse to contact authorities
8. Any accused partner or church representative will be relieved temporarily of his or her duties until the investigation is completed .
9. All details, interviews, and information will remain confidential to those legitimately involved in the investigation. Any individual or group responsible for a breach in this confidentiality is subject to disciplinary action or suspended from the CG Youth Ministry.



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Types of Abuse

- Emotional abuse: Attacking the emotional wellbeing and stability of the individual. Legally required to report suspected abuses visibly affecting the emotional stability of the child. Social bullying, derogatory comments, and racial or ethnic slurs are examples of emotional abuse.
- Physical abuse: Harming the physical wellbeing of an individual. Legally required to report any non-accidental physical injury to the child.
- Neglect: harming an individual by abandoning, ignoring, or rejecting basic needs. Legally required to report failure of a parent or guardian to provide needed food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision.
- Sexual abuse: harming an individual through inappropriate sexual contact, lewd behavior, or exploitation. Legally required to report any form of sexual abuse.

There may be situations whereby the child is engaging in behaviors that are still considered harmful to a child, such as but not limited to drinking, smoking, self-cutting or self-mutilation, suicidal tendencies, and/or promiscuity. In those situations, the Senior Pastor or Youth Pastor should be informed, and they will inform the child's parents. The church will attempt to work through the situation with the parents if so desired.

Requirements for Chosen Generation Partners:

- CG Partners are required to adhere to the youth protection policies of the church. CG Partners must maintain a high level of integrity which includes attending church regularly and setting a good example for the young people. During events, the youth worker must abide by the Event Rules for Chaperones/Counselors document.

Pre-screening of Partners

- All CG partners should be members of the church
- All partners should provide two references within/outside of the church
- Background checks locally and nationally are required for every partner who will work with the youth group as sanctioned by the Youth Pastor.
- All partners will be interviewed by the Youth Pastor or designee who decides on individual role in youth ministry
- All partners will provide a valid form of ID (i.e., state driver's license, or other governmental issued ID)
- All partners will provide two references
- All partners must pass Child Safety Training
- All partners will have an introductory period of service where they receive training and guidance as directed by Senior Pastor or Youth Pastor



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Requirements for Youth:

To participate in youth events, members of Chosen Generation must adhere to the behavioral policy of the youth group. Members of the youth group must submit a permission slip signed by their legal guardians whenever participating in a youth event which requires transportation from the church other than their own legal guardians.

Contact Information:

Lead Pastor: **Anthony White (813)264-4050**

Administration: Karen Beard: **kbeard@bible-based.org**

Interim CG Pastor: **Steven Pam: spam@bible-based.org**

Youth Coordinator: **Elaine Kirby: chosen@bible-based.org**

Abuse Hotline **1 (800) 962-2873**

Appendix A.

Potential Indicators of Child Abuse and/or Neglect

Determining when to report suspected child abuse or neglect may be difficult. A bruise on a toddler's forehead may be the result of learning to walk or the result of abuse. Below are some of the commonly accepted physical and behavioral indicators of abuse and/or neglect. *Please note that the physical and behavioral indicators listed are not the only indicators of child abuse and neglect and if present, do not always mean a child is being abused or neglected.*

Physical Neglect - Physical Indicators

- Unattended medical needs.
- Lack of supervision.
- Regular signs of hunger, inappropriate dress, poor hygiene.
- Distended stomach, emaciated.
- Significant weight change.

Physical Neglect - Behavioral Indicators

- Regularly displays fatigue or listlessness, falls asleep in class.
- Steals/hoards food begs from classmates.
- Reports that no caretaker is at home.
- Frequently absent or tardy.
- School dropout (adolescents).



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Physical Abuse - Physical Indicators

- Unexplained bruises (in various stages of healing), welts, loop marks.
- Adult/human bite marks.
- Bald spots or missing clumps of hair.
- Unexplained burns/scalds.
- Unexplained fractures, skin lacerations/punctures or abrasions.
- Swollen lips/chipped teeth.
- Linear/parallel marks on cheeks and temple area.
- Crescent-shaped bruising.
- Puncture wounds.
- Bruising behind the ears.

Physical Abuse - Behavioral Indicators

- Self-destructive/self-mutilation.
- Withdrawn and/or aggressive-behavior extremes.
- Uncomfortable/skittish with physical contact.
- Arrives at school late or stays late as if afraid to be at home.
- Chronic runaway (adolescents).
- Complains of soreness or moves uncomfortably.
- Wears clothing inappropriate to weather, to cover body.
- Lack of impulse control (e.g., inappropriate outbursts).

Sexual Abuse - Physical indicators

- Pain or itching in genital area.
- Bruises or bleeding in genital area.
- Venereal disease.
- Frequent urinary or yeast infections.
- Extreme or sudden weight change.
- Pregnancy under 12 years of age.

Sexual Abuse - Behavioral Indicators

- Withdrawal, chronic depression.
- Sexual behaviors or references that are unusual for the child's age.
- Seductive or promiscuous behavior.
- Poor self-esteem, self-devaluation, lack of confidence.
- Suicide attempts (especially adolescents).
- Hysteria, lack of emotional control.
- Habit Disorders (sucking, rocking).