

TEACH, PROTECT, WATCH, RESPOND



TEACH the children and youth:

- To always follow the family safety rules
- To appreciate their own bodies and boundaries
- To tell a person to stop any offensive behavior
- To get away and stay away from anyone who frightens or confuses them
- To ask another adult for help and protection

PROTECT

- Screen* anyone who works or volunteers with children/youth.
Screening includes application form criminal record check, interview, and reference checks.
- Clarify guidelines* for interacting with children/youth.
- Monitor* anyone who works or volunteers with children/youth.
- Train* anyone who works or volunteers with children/youth.

WATCH for:

- Physical boundary violations*
Roughhousing, wrestling, tickling, “accidentally” touching inappropriately, etc.
- Emotional boundary violations* (romantic or “adult” relationship with child)
Spending too much time, e-mailing/calling too much, possessiveness, too involved
- Behavioral boundary violations* (involving child in inappropriate activities)
Ridiculing parents’ beliefs or restrictions, gifts, secrets, cigarettes, porn, alcohol, etc.
- Warning signs in the children* (see www.kyros.org for resources and more information)

RESPOND

- Healing depends on duration, frequency, intensity, betrayal level or the abuse and the response to the child’s disclosure. (See reverse side.)
- Talk to the person and explain that you do not allow that behavior
- Express your concerns to the person in charge
- Remove your child
- If you suspect abuse, call child protective services (650) 595-7922 or the police 911 or (650) 777-4100

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RESPOND

AVOID COMMON BARRIERS* TO RESPONDING:

<i>Denial</i>	We don't want to believe that abuse occurs.
<i>Loyalty</i>	We have allegiance to the alleged perpetrator or the church.
<i>Fear</i>	We could be wrong or we may not want to be identified.
<i>Protection</i>	We want to protect the victim from embarrassment or pain.
<i>Avoidance</i>	We don't want to get caught in the middle or waste time.
<i>Guilt</i>	We should have known or we might be implicated.

IF A CHILD DISCLOSES ABUSE:

- Listen (be sensitive to vague disclosures).
- Avoid making promises.
- Avoid expressing shock or outrage or panic.
- Don't threaten or condemn the alleged perpetrator.
- Believe what the child is telling you.
- Reassure the child he or she was right to tell you.
- Assure the child the abuse was not his or her fault.
- Avoid questions that could make the child feel responsible.
- Try to get enough details about the situation (without asking leading questions) to determine your response (find resources, report to CPS, talk to parents, etc.).
(Your role is discernment and getting help, not investigation!)
- Write down exactly what the child said.
- Follow the church and California reporting procedure.

Child Protective Services	(650) 595-7922
Adult Protective Services	(888) 436-3600
Law Enforcement	911 or (650) 777-4100
- Encourage the child to continue with her/his routine and school activities as soon as possible but do not force. Consider counseling and be prepared to take with the child abuse the abusive situation.
- Find a place to vent your own feelings. Take care of yourself too.

For more abuse prevention information, visit www.kyros.org (under "Resources")

For free on-line training for mandated reporters visit
www.humanservices.ucdavis.edu/resource/camrt/index.asp

* Adapted from *Safeguarding God's Children Handbook for Parents and Congregations*, page 24