



St. Sanctuary Church

Disclosure of Presence of Convicted Sex Offender

Secrecy about situations within the church encourages abuse; transparency makes everyone safer. Therefore immediately after the pastor learns of the presence of a possible convicted sex offender in the congregation, the pastor will gather pertinent public records from the government agencies who arrested and prosecuted the individual.

First Phase: If the individual indeed is a convicted sex offender, the pastor will with professional consultation create a covenant of behavior similar to the sample document (See Appendix 7a). Then the pastor will inform members of the church's program staff that the person is a convicted sex offender; whether he/she has satisfied the court's requirements related to his/her conviction; and that a covenant of behavior has been established and is being fulfilled by the individual. The pastor and the program staff will then initiate a process to educate and inform the Trustees, the Church Council, the parents of minor children, and volunteers who work with St. Sanctuary's children and youth about St. Sanctuary's Safe Congregation's policies and procedures and about the basic facts related to (the person's name) status as a convicted sex offender.

Second Phase: Church leadership will review St. Sanctuary's Safe Church vision, policy and procedures. The ____ (governing body) will also be informed that individual is a convicted sex offender; that he has satisfied the court's requirements related to his conviction; that this covenant has been developed; and that plans are underway to educate and inform the parents of minor children and church school and youth volunteers about these matters.

Third Phase: The pastor, judicatory representative, an external consultant, and one or more members of the St. Sanctuary's Safe Sanctuary Task Force will lead trainings and informational meetings for parents of minor children and church school volunteers. These trainings and informational meetings will cover the following topics: St. Sanctuary's Safe Church policies and procedures, the basic facts related to the presence of a convicted sex offender in the congregation, and the several ways for parents and other members of the congregation to fulfill our vision of being a safe and an inclusive faith community. Open forums with the entire congregation may be warranted.

At the conclusion of this three-phase process, this covenant between (the offender) and St. Sanctuary Church will be reviewed, and it may be amended.