



# ***SAFE SANCTUARY***

**Argyle United Methodist Church  
Argyle, TX**

Press left arrow key to move backwards and right arrow key to move forward.



## ***WHY SAFE SANCTUARY?***

- Our calling and our mandate is to ensure safe sanctuary for all God's people.
- Prevent the occurrence or even the *appearance* of abuse.
- Protect workers from false accusations and/or suspicions.



## ***SAFE SANCTUARY APPLIES TO***

- Any event on or off campus which occurs in the name of AUMC including:
  - Sporting Events
  - Field Trips
  - Mission Activities
  - Sunday School Parties
  - Etc.



# ***SAFE SANCTUARY CONTACTS***

Your two main contacts from the Safe Sanctuary Executive Committee include:

- Liz Edwards: Children's Ministries Director
- Nathan Bryant: Director of Youth

# ***WHAT IS ABUSE?***

## **PHYSICAL/EMOTIONAL ABUSE:**

Any act of omission or an act that endangers a person's physical or mental health.



Press left arrow key to move backwards and right arrow key to move forward.



# ***PHYSICAL & EMOTIONAL ABUSE INCLUDES***

- Failure to prevent injury/harm.
- Controlled substance misuse (by the adult or by the youth/child).
- Mental or emotional injury directly to a child/youth.
- Allowing a child/youth to be in a situation resulting in mental/emotional injury.

Press left arrow key to move backwards and right arrow key to move forward.



# ***WHAT IS SEXUAL ABUSE?***

- The sexual exploitation or use of same for the satisfaction of sexual drives.
  - Examples: incest, rape, prostitution, romantic involvement with a child/youth, any sexual contact with a participant, displaying sexual material, suggestive comments or contact, and more.



## ***IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER***

- With abuse it's not just what you do.....it also includes what you don't do.
- Not stepping in to stop an abusive action or situation is also abuse!
- You must be proactive to prevent abuse or situations that might lead to abuse.



# ***WHO MUST GO THROUGH SAFE SANCTUARY?***

- All employees of AUMC
- Any volunteer coming into direct contact with children or youth.



# ***WHAT IS THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS?***

- Complete an application and give permission to do a background check.
- Turn in 2-3 references.
- Complete a training session.
- Upon completion of the above and receiving a satisfactory background check, the individual is certified.



# ***What if there is an incident?***

- Take care of the child. Secure emergency medical help if needed.
- Contact a staff member as soon as is reasonably possible.
- Be ready to report on all details of the incident.
- Contact the appropriate authorities.



## ***What If The Media Is Involved?***

- Refer all questions/comments to our church's official spokesperson. This will either be Liz Edwards or the person she designates.



# ***HALLMARKS OF OUR SAFE SANCTUARY POLICY***

Press left arrow key to move backwards and right arrow key to move forward.

# ***Two BY Two***

- Try to always have two responsible persons present whenever a child/youth is present.



Press left arrow key to move backwards and right arrow key to move forward.



# ***LINE OF SIGHT***

- Stay visible to others.
- Keep the door open.
- Stay in an area where others can see you.



## ***SAFETY IN NUMBERS***

- Especially with children, try to avoid situations where there is one adult and one child.
- Especially when non-Safe Sanctuary certified adults are present, make sure at least one Safe Sanctuary certified individual is present.



## ***SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES***

- Sign a waiver/revocation for an ongoing situation such as counseling, piano lessons, etc.
- Keep door open (Ex: counseling one on one).
- Caravan when only one adult in vehicle with multiple children/youth.



# ***RESTROOM ASSISTANCE (AS REGARDS CHILDREN)***

- Children in 1<sup>st</sup> grade and up can go to the restroom in pairs without direct supervision.
- If you must accompany a child into the restroom alone, leave the door ajar and alert the other adult present.
- If you encounter an “ongoing” situation (perhaps you have a child with special needs in your class), contact Liz, Nathan, Kelli or Rev. Joe to make arrangements for assistance.



# ***CHANGING DIAPERS***

- It is appropriate to change diapers as needed.
- Diapers should be changed in an open environment.



# ***FIRE ALARMS***

- If the fire alarm goes off, the building should be evacuated.
- Gather the children/youth, count carefully and go out the nearest safe exit.
- Stay outside the building until the “all clear signal” is given.



# ***HEALTH EMERGENCIES***

- First aid kits are located in numerous areas. Ask your direct staff supervisor for the locations in your area.
- Do not hesitate to call 911 if needed.
- Contact a staff person as soon as possible.



# ***APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINE***

- For children:
  - Make children/parents aware of rules.
  - Use gentle reminders. Stand near child to remind him/her of your presence.
  - Physical or punitive punishment is not appropriate. Reasonable and supervised time out is acceptable.
  - Keep parents aware of issues.
  - Contact Liz or Kelli to make decision whether child should be sent home in extreme cases.



## ***APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINE (CONT)***

- For Youth:
  - Make youth & parents aware of rules.
  - Use gentle reminders.
  - Physical or punitive punishment is not appropriate. Reasonable and supervised time out is acceptable.
  - If behavior does not improve, contact Nathan.
  - In extreme cases, the youth may be sent home. The youth staff will make this decision.



# ***SETTING BOUNDARIES***

- Physical boundaries change as an individual ages. Holding a young child in your lap is appropriate. Holding an older child or youth in your lap is not appropriate.
- Do not allow children or youth to become too attached.
- Always be aware of where a conversation might go. Steer conversations appropriately.
- If you feel boundaries are being violated, allow great distance to come between you and the young person.
- Contact a staff person if you feel uncomfortable with a situation.



## ***WHO IS A “RESPONSIBLE PARTY”?***

- AUMC has a rich history of using youth and college students in supervisory positions.
- As regards children, older youth and college students may be used in supervisory situations with children. (Ex: a small group shepherd at VBS)
- As regards youth, anyone under the age of 21 is considered an assistant leader and not “in charge” of youth.



# ***OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS***

- It is strongly recommended that two adults (or for children, one adult and one older youth) be present in each room or in close proximity to the room.
- If only one adult is present, there must be more than one child/youth present.
- Adults are not to sleep in the same bed with a child/youth.



# ***LEADER MISCONDUCT***

- Working with children/youth is a great privilege.
- If that privilege is violated, you will be removed from contact with children/youth.
- If necessary, the appropriate authorities will be contacted.



# ***SEXUAL HARASSMENT***

- Sexual harassment is any unwanted sexual advance or demand, either verbal or physical, that is reasonably perceived by the recipient as demeaning, intimidating, or coercive.
- The key factor in sexual harassment is **PERCEPTION.**



# ***TIPS TO AVOID SEXUAL HARASSMENT***

- Be a good example – treat everyone with respect.
- Stick to handshakes. (Except with young children).
- Ask yourself: “Would I act this way if my spouse/significant other was present?”
- “Would I want someone to act this way to my spouse/significant other?”



## ***MORE TIPS***

- Ask yourself: “Would I want my behavior broadcast on the news?”
- Is there equal participation between you and the person you are interacting with? If not, back away!
- Read other’s verbal and physical cues.
- When in doubt, back away.



## ***MORE TIPS***

- Avoid sexualized language. (Ex: sexy, hot)
- Avoid comments or compliments of a personal nature unless you are sure how they will be received.
- Be aware of other's personal space.

# ***VERY IMPORTANT***

- IT IS NOT THE INTENT THAT MATTERS.
- IT IS HOW IT IS RECEIVED THAT IS THE ISSUE.



Press left arrow key to move backwards and right arrow key to move forward.



# **QUESTIONS?**

- Contact Liz Edwards, [liz@argyleumc.org](mailto:liz@argyleumc.org),  
940-464-1333, Ext. 104.
- Contact Nathan Bryant, [nathan@argyleumc.org](mailto:nathan@argyleumc.org),  
Ext. 301.
- Contact Kelli Stoops, [kelli@argyleumc.org](mailto:kelli@argyleumc.org),  
Ext. 108
- Contact Rev. Joe Stobaugh, [joe@argyleumc.org](mailto:joe@argyleumc.org),  
Ext. 106



## ***NOW WHAT?***

- While it's fresh on your mind, take the quiz on this presentation. The quiz is located on [www.argyleumc.org](http://www.argyleumc.org).
- If you haven't already turned in your paperwork, download it off of [argyleumc.org](http://argyleumc.org) or pick up copies at the church in the office.
- Have two people send in references. The forms are on [www.argyleumc.org](http://www.argyleumc.org).
- Once we have received everything, we'll contact you if we have any questions.
- Thanks!