



## **CHILD SAFEGUARDING:**

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SAFE USE OF CHURCH PREMISES BY OTHERS**

The Archdiocese of Cape Town is committed to the safeguarding of all children who use church facilities. These child safeguarding requirements apply to any group, church or otherwise, who make use of any church facilities. This could be an ad hoc use, continuous or other regular arrangement.

It is the responsibility of the parish priest, through the parish CSP Coordinator, to ensure that this form is applied to any group that includes children and is not attached to the parish. It is to be signed by the person responsible for the group and a copy given to that person with the original retained by the parish. If the church facilities do not form part of a parish, the church organization that is responsible for the facilities must ensure that these requirements are adhered to.

#### **AS A CONDITION OF USE OF THE CHURCH'S PREMISES, THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GROUP MUST ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF AND COMMITMENT TO THESE REQUIREMENTS**

**Groups are reminded that child abuse is defined, in terms of the Children's Act, as**

- Assaulting a child or inflicting any other form of deliberate injury to a child
- Sexually abusing a child or allowing a child to be sexually abused
- Bullying by another child
- A labour practice that exploits a child
- Exposing or subjecting a child to behavior that may harm the child psychologically or emotionally
- Purposeful neglect that leads to the above

#### **REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN COME TO NO HARM**

- **Adults must:**
  - Treat all children with respect
  - Respect each child's boundaries
  - Be visible to others when around children whenever possible
  - Challenge and report potentially abusive behavior
- **Adults must never:**
  - Hit or otherwise physically assault or physically abuse a child or use any other prohibited punitive measures
  - Permit children in their care to abuse one another in any way
  - Indulge in sexual behaviour of any kind with children
  - Expose a child/children to pornographic material of any nature or on any media whatsoever or allow such exposure to take place
  - Indulge in grooming behaviour
  - Develop relationships with children which could in any way be deemed exploitative or abusive
  - Act in ways that may be abusive or may place a child at risk of abuse
- **All adults must avoid actions or behaviour that could be construed as poor practice or potentially abusive. For example, they should never:**
  - Use language, make suggestions or offer advice which is inappropriate, offensive or abusive
  - Behave physically in a manner which is inappropriate or sexually provocative
  - Stay alone overnight with a child/children

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- Sleep in the same room or bed as a child
- Do things for children of a personal nature that they can do for themselves
- Condone, or participate in, behaviour of children which is illegal, unsafe or abusive
- Act in ways intended to shame, humiliate, belittle or degrade a child
- Serve alcohol or any other controlled substance to a child
- Discriminate against, show different treatment, or favour particular children to the exclusion of others
- **Supervision**
  - There must be appropriate levels of supervision depending on the age of the children and the activities involved – this should not be less than one adult per 10 children
  - If there are both boys and girls in the group, there should be male and female supervisors
  - If the group is sleeping on the church’s premises then separate, supervised, sleeping arrangements *must* be made
  - Supervisors are to be vigilant in order to prevent child-on-child abuse such as bullying
  - Every attempt should be made to ensure that an adult is not left alone with a child where there is little opportunity for their activity to be observed by others

Activity on the premises of (parish or church organization)	
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Name of group or organisation				
Facility to be used				
Description of function/activities				
Date of event/Period of use	Date: From	To	Time: From	To
Person responsible for group	Telephone			
	Email			

**Responsible Person - Acknowledgement and Commitment**

As the responsible person for this group, I acknowledge the church’s child safeguarding requirements and commit the group to adhering to them and that the use of the facilities is conditional upon this adherence.			
Signed		Date	