**Mid-Kentucky Presbytery Boundary Guidelines**

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.” (Matthew 19:14; Luke 18:16) We who lead children and youth as they grow in faith also have a responsibility to protect and care for them. Mid-Kentucky Presbytery seeks to protect the adults who work with the young people in the church. The Christian Education Committee of Mid-Kentucky Presbytery recommends the following guidelines and practices for the security, protection, and care of children, youth, and the adults who work with them in ministry.

1. Adult workers will agree to background checks. **Mid Kentucky Presbytery has contracted with *Protect My Ministry* to provide background checks at a discounted price. Register** at<http://www.protectmyministry.com/midkypres>. A list of available databases is attached to this document.
2. Adult workers will receive information and training regarding the safety and protection of the children and youth in their care.
3. Two adult leaders are required to attend all events. One-on-one contact is not permitted unless the adult and child/youth are in clear view of other adults.
4. Respect for the privacy of children, youth, and adults is expected at all times unless the health and safety of the individual is at risk. Responsible use of digital devices is expected in all situations.
5. Attire that is appropriate for the occasion is to be worn by all participants.
6. At all times children, youth, and adults are expected to treat one another with love and respect, guided by Jesus’ words, “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you.” (Matthew 7:12)
7. Children and youth are encouraged to immediately tell an adult about any inappropriate situations.
8. Adults are expected to be alert to any situations that may place children and youth in danger. They are encouraged to establish a relationship of trust with the children and youth in their care. If inappropriate activities are reported, the adult will immediately give the information to the supervising adult.

**NOTE:** There are mandatory reporting laws in the state of Kentucky for any crime committed against a person under the age of 18, all cases of domestic violence, and cases of abuse and neglect of persons over the age of 18 who are physically or mentally challenged. If you receive information regarding someone in one of these categories who has been sexually assaulted, or in any other way abused or neglected, you are legally obligated to report the incident to the Department of Community Based Services or law enforcement.

Off-site Events

1. An adult will not travel off-site with only one child/youth in a vehicle.
2. At overnight events all sleeping arrangements should be carefully considered. When possible adults should normally sleep in separate rooms from children and youth.

Further information about “Children and Youth Safety” is available through Guide One Insurance at <https://www.guideone.com/churches.htm> and at <https://www.safechurch.com>.

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