

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. The Mid-Kentucky Presbytery seeks to protect the adults who work with the young people in the church. The Education Unit of the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky recommends the following guidelines and practices for the security, protection and care of children and youth, and the adults who work with them in ministry within our congregations.

1. Adult workers will agree to background checks. The 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. An excellent source for Youth Protection Training is available through the Boy Scouts of America at <https://myscouting.scouting.org>. Further information is available at <http://www.scouting.org/training/youthprotection.aspx>.
3. Two-adult leaders are required to attend all church functions and events. One-on-one contact is not permitted unless the adult and child/youth are in clear view of other adults and children/youth.
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 one child/youth in a vehicle. When travelling at least three people, one adult and two young people, will travel together 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.
3. Ratios for children to adults of the same gender should be 6:1 for ages 12 and under, and 9:1 for 13-18 year olds.

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>.

ADDENDUM

Concerning social media, the Education Unit makes the following suggestions:

1. Churches should not post pictures of youth or children on websites or social media sites without express written consent of the child's or youth's parents. This can be accomplished by using a release statement and having parents sign it as they join the church or as children enter children's or youth programming.
2. If churches do post pictures of youth or children on public websites or social media sites, they are encouraged exclude the child's or youth's name. Churches may consider posting names and children's pictures together if the site is private and password protected or if the social media site offers the option for limited access (for example, being "accepted" into the group on Facebook).

Below is a sample photo release agreement:



BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR YOUR PEACE OF MIND.

Protect My Ministry
18946 N. Dale Mabry Hwy., Ste.101

tel: +1 800 319-5581

fax: +1 800 319-5582

www.protectmyministry.com

Social Security Number Verification & Address History (Turnaround – Instant)

This service verifies an individual's ssn , name and identifies all addresses ever listed on their credit file. This automated search is interfaced between our web-based software and credit bureau files. Results are returned instantly. The previous address info of an applicant is vital in conducting a thorough county criminal check.

National Criminal & Sex Offender Database (Turnaround – Instant)

This service is a name check of a national criminal database that is a comprehensive database providing access to the largest criminal data available with millions of offense records. It is a valuable information resource that may discover convictions in counties outside of applicants' previous residences Records from states are indexed from state correctional institutions, sexual offender and violent offender lists. For some states this search should not be utilized as a stand-alone service, and may require additional county or statewide criminal searches.

County Criminal Records (+court fees) (Turnaround – 24 to 72 hours depending on courts restriction)

This service is a name check for any criminal history (Felony and misdemeanors where available), at the county level. Based on the zip codes that an applicant provides and in conjunction with the zip codes found from the ssn trace, counties to be searched are established. These search requests are fulfilled either through an extensive national network of researchers, or by utilizing direct access to county court records. The standard county criminal search period is 7 years.

Statewide Criminal Records (+state fees) (Turnaround – see individual statewide form)

This service is a name check for any criminal history at the state level repositories. Not all states are available, and the completeness of the records varies per state repository. A state sex offender search and follow up on county records are provided with this service.

Credit History Report (Turnaround – Instant)

This service provides a copy of an applicants prior credit history. This automated search is interfaced between our web-based software and Experians credit files. The information included in this report includes charge offs, collection accounts, bankruptcies, judgments, balances, and monthly payments. This information is exceptionally important when dealing with an applicant that will be entrusted in handling and finances.

Motor vehicle searches (+state fees) (Turnaround – See individual MVR form)

This automated service contains a summary of the applicants state motor vehicle record. This service verifies if the applicant possesses a valid license, and if they have had any derogatory driving history. This information is important for purposes of insurance/liability. This service is provided instantly through an automation of our web based software and our MVR provider. Five states require a state release form from the applicant.