# Church Safety Assessment

Creating a safe church is an ongoing commitment. This assessment will help your church evaluate its abuse prevention and response practices in four key areas: Train, Screen, Protect, and Report. Use it to celebrate what you're doing well, identify areas for growth, and choose practical next steps to build a culture that protects children, youth, and vulnerable adults.

| **TRAIN** | **YES** | **NO** | **IN PROGRESS** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Our staff and volunteers who work with children, youth, or vulnerable adults receive abuse prevention training before or soon after beginning service. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| We provide ongoing/refresher training rather than treating abuse prevention training as a one-time event. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Training includes how to recognize signs and indicators of abuse. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Training includes peer-to-peer abuse and how to recognize it. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Training helps participants recognize grooming behaviors and boundary violations, not just obvious abuse. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| We document who has completed required training and track when refresher training is due. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

| **SCREEN** | **YES** | **NO** | **IN PROGRESS** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Every staff member and volunteer serving with vulnerable populations completes a written application. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| We conduct an interview or intentional screening conversation before approving someone to serve. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| We contact and document references rather than simply collecting their names. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| We conduct an appropriate criminal background check before an individual begins serving. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

| SCREEN (CONT.) | YES | NO | IN PROGRESS |
|---|---|---|---|
| We renew background checks on a regular schedule set by our church. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| We conduct an internet/social media review as part of the screening process. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Our screening process looks for red flags, concerning patterns, unexplained information, or inconsistencies and includes a process for following up on concerns. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Screening requirements apply consistently—including to long-time members, friends, family members, and individuals already known by church leadership. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| We securely maintain documentation showing that each staff member or volunteer completed the required screening process. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| We know and comply with our insurance company's requirements. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

| PROTECT | YES | NO | IN PROGRESS |
|---|---|---|---|
| Our church has current, accessible abuse-prevention and child/youth safety policies for those who serve. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Our policies establish clear expectations regarding adult-to-child ratios and/or avoiding isolated one-on-one situations. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| We have clear procedures for bathroom and toileting situations. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| We have secure check-in, release, and pick-up procedures appropriate to our ministry. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Our policies establish appropriate boundaries for physical touch, discipline, and interactions with minors and vulnerable adults. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

| PROTECT | YES | NO | IN PROGRESS |
|---|---|---|---|
| We have guidelines for electronic communication, texting, social media, photos, and other digital interactions. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| We have safeguards for higher-risk situations such as transportation, overnight events, camps, trips, and off-site activities. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Our facilities and ministry practices provide appropriate visibility and supervision of ministry spaces. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Staff and volunteers know how to report policy violations, boundary concerns, or suspicious behavior, even when abuse has not been alleged. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Our policies clearly explain procedures in emergencies, such as fire, extreme weather, or intrusive danger. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Church leaders regularly review and update policies and have a process to ensure they are consistently followed. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

| REPORT | YES | NO | IN PROGRESS |
|---|---|---|---|
| Our church has a written abuse response plan established before an allegation or disclosure occurs. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Staff and volunteers know who receives internal reports of suspected abuse or safety concerns. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Staff and volunteers understand that internal reporting does not replace legally required reporting to government authorities. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Our church knows the mandatory reporting requirements in our state/jurisdiction, including who must report and where reports are made. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Our response plan clearly identifies who is responsible for contacting law enforcement and/or child protective authorities when appropriate. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Our plan includes procedures for documenting allegations, reports, and actions taken. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

| REPORT (CONT.) | YES | NO | IN PROGRESS |
|---|---|---|---|
| Our plan identifies who will coordinate the church's response and who is authorized to communicate internally, with families, and publicly. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Our plan includes appropriate notification or consultation with insurance, legal counsel, and other qualified professionals, when applicable. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Church leaders know that they should not conduct their own investigation in place of appropriate authorities. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

**What are we doing well?**

**What is our most important area for improvement?**

**What is one action we will take in that area in the next week?**