

North Pointe Church of Christ Policy for Ensuring the Well-Being of our Children

Our Safety Policy is:

To conduct a screening procedure, including criminal background checks, on all volunteers who work with children and youth, as well as on all staff, elders and deacons.

To only use volunteers in our children's and youth ministries who have been members for at least six months, except for special cases where appropriate references have been thoroughly checked.

To strive to have at least two approved workers with our children during classes including life groups and other organized activities.

To provide a hall monitor during the Bible class hour.

To take seriously all concerns and suggestions regarding the safety and care of our children. In the case of suspected unacceptable behavior, an immediate review will be conducted to determine appropriate action.

To have volunteers exhibit appropriate behavior with children and youth at all times. Anyone exhibiting behavior considered to be unacceptable will not be permitted to have contact with minors.

Children's/Youth Ministry
Child Protection Policy
North Pointe Church of Christ

We live in an age where child abuse is an unfortunate reality in our society. The church should deal with this issue as a “good shepherd” by taking steps to protect the children in our care. North Pointe Church of Christ has implemented a child protection policy that will safeguard our children while promoting a positive, nurturing environment for ministry to them. The guidelines following are to be carefully followed by anyone working with children and youth, as well as the general church population.

1. In general, touching should be initiated by the child or youth. It should be a response to the child's need for comforting, encouragement, or affection. It should not be based upon the adult's emotional need.
2. Touching and affection should only be given when in the presence of other children's ministry, youth worker, or other adult. It is much less likely that touches will be inappropriate or misconstrued as such when two adult workers are present and the touching is open to observation. This rule is especially important when diapering a baby or helping a young child change clothes or use the restroom.
3. Physical affection should be appropriate to the age of the child or youth. (For example, it is generally appropriate for a four-year-old to sit in a nursery worker's lap and give a kiss on the cheek, but it is not appropriate for a pre-teen or teenager and a youth worker or another adult to behave this way.)
4. Touching behavior should not give even the **appearance** of wrongdoing. As Christians and ministry workers our behavior must foster trust at all times; it should be above reproach.
5. It is never appropriate to touch a child's private parts when showing affection.
6. A child's preference not to be touched should be respected. Affection will not be forced upon a reluctant child.

7. All adults, especially our church workers are responsible to protect children under their supervision from inappropriate touching by others.

8. Church workers must promptly discuss inappropriate touching or other questionable behavior by other workers with a staff member, or administrative team member and/or write an Incident Report.

We understand that appropriate physical affection is important for a child's development and is generally suitable in our church setting. These guidelines are designed to protect our children, our children's ministry workers, and our whole congregation. Thank you for abiding by these guidelines.