



Safe Sanctuaries Guidelines Summary Panama United Methodist Church

Our congregation has established Safe Sanctuaries Guidelines in order to provide a safe environment for children, youth and vulnerable adults. Our Guidelines seek to provide an atmosphere where adults are free to teach and love children, youth and vulnerable adults, in a Christ-like manner, and children, youth and vulnerable adults can pursue their journey to know, love and serve God freely without fear.

The Safe Sanctuaries Guidelines includes:

Guidelines

- Staff/volunteers must be 18 or at least 5 years older than the oldest minor
- Volunteers must have a relationship with the church prior to supervising children
- Those working with children must complete appropriate information forms
- Supervising Volunteers and employees must consent to a background check
- All employees and volunteers must read and agree to abide by the SSP
- “Two person rule” shall be observed
 - Two persons will be present at each event/activity
 - The presence of an adult “roamer” may be the second person
- Persons convicted of sexual abuse will not work with children
- Training on Child Abuse prevention and detection will be provided

Physical Surroundings

- All facilities must be clean and safe and open to view

Transportation

- Any event/activity involving transportation requires
 - Written permission forms signed by parents
 - Drivers who are at least 21 years old

Response and Reporting Plan

- Adults making good faith reports have immunity from liability
- The Guidelines will be disseminated and explained
- Yearly training programs will be provided on child abuse awareness and response
- Abuse allegations will be reported promptly and involve the Pastor and SPRC Chair
- Confidentiality is necessary to protect the victim and the accused
- The Conference Director of Communications will handle media questions

Anyone interested in reading and/or having a copy of the entire Safe Sanctuaries Guidelines may request a copy from the church office.

TO REPORT ABUSE: Contact the NY State Central Registry at 1 -800-342-3720 or any Law Enforcement Agency at 911.

Additionally, you may contact CAP at 716-338-9844 to obtain information about resources available in our county to help with advocacy, treatment, and legal help.

