

THE TWO ADULT RULE

- The two adult rule requires that no fewer than two adults be present at all times during any church sponsored program, event or ministry involving children and/or youth.
- It is best that these two adults not be related
- Why have this rule?
 - Drastically reduces the risk of an incident of abuse (A potential abuser will lose interest if they are constantly in sight of another adult)
 - Protects the adults against false allegations
 - Reduces the possibility of a claim of negligence
 - Parents and adults more likely to volunteer to lead if they know they will have help on a regular basis
 - Provides help if there is an accident or emergency
 - The church makes a statement that children/youth are important and valued
- But we are a small church with a hard time finding one teacher. What do we do?
 - Assign an adult roamer who visits each classroom during the Sunday School hour to function as additional helpers
 - Leave doors open
 - Put glass windows in the doors

By John Hughes, Safe Sanctuaries Committee Member, Lay person from Cedar Grove UMC, BU District