



Safe Sanctuaries Reporting Abuse PowerPoint Script

Slide 1: This training is focused on how to report a suspected incident of abuse.

Slide 2: Read the Leader's part. Ask participants to read the response. Remind participants this is what we agree to do when we respond during the Covenant of Baptism.

Slide 3: When abuse occurs in the church, we must be prepared to act quickly.

Slide 4: It is our legal and moral responsibility to report suspected abuse whenever it comes to our attention.

Slide 5: What should we report? We are required to report if we:

1. Personally witnessed an incident of abuse;
2. Hear an allegation of abuse from a child or an adult;
3. Hear someone admit to having abused a child, youth, or adult

Slide 6: Remember, it is our legal and moral responsibility to report suspected abuse. To report abuse is to witness to the world of the love and justice of God.

Slide 7: If you suspect abuse:

1. Ensure the protection of the child
2. IMMEDIATELY contact the ministry supervisor or director
3. IMMEDIATELY notify the pastor
(Director or Pastor will complete the Report Form)

Slide 8: The child, youth, vulnerable adult victim is NEVER responsible for causing the abuse, NEVER to be blamed, and NEVER capable of consent to the abusive behavior. Remember, the victim is never to be blamed.

Slide 9: Abuse affects many people. (Read slide). It is our responsibility to offer a safe environment for children, youth, and vulnerable adults. Church should be a place of protection.

Slide 10: The church shall have a plan in order to respond appropriately when abuse occurs.

Slide 11: This is the number one step: If the alleged abuser is in a leadership position, immediately remove him/her from that position during the investigation.

Slide 12: Immediately complete an Abuse Reporting form with date and description of witnessed abuse. Copies of the forms can be found in Joy Melton's book, *Safe Sanctuaries*, on pages 150-152 or *Safer Sanctuaries*, on pages 241-243.

Slide 13: Sample Form page 1

Slide 14: Sample Form page 2

Slide 15: What Happens If (When) Suspected Abuse is by a staff person other than the senior pastor or a church member: Report to the Senior Pastor. Remember to have documented allegation on file from observer/original reporter. The documentation from the original reporter is crucial.

Slide 16: The pastor will report immediately to:

The District Superintendent (919-779-9435 and ask for the D.S.'s number)

Dir. of Communications at the Conference Office (919-278-2436)

- Trustees Chairperson (for insurance purposes)
- Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Chairperson
- Department of Social Services (find local phone # and publish for your congregation) or the Sherriff's Department (find local phone # and publish for your congregation) (*NC is a mandatory reporting state*)
- If a minor, contact the parents/guardians
- Church's insurance company

Remember: this is the Pastor's responsibility-

Slide 17: What Happens If (When) Suspected Abuse is by the senior pastor:

Report to the District Superintendent (919-779-9435 and ask for the D.S.'s. phone number)

Remember to have documented allegation on file from observer/original reporter.

The observer/original reporter must record the allegation for reporting.

Slide 18: The DS will report immediately to:

Dir. of Communications at the Conference Office

SPRC of Church

Department of Social Services (of the county where the church is located) or the Sherriff's

Department (of the county where the church is located) (*NC is a mandatory reporting state*)

If a minor, contact the parents/guardians

Church's insurance company

Slide 19: The documentation must be thorough and clear. Keep these documents in a safe, secure place.

Slide 20: Let the authorities handle the investigation. The accurate and thorough documentation is the church's responsibility. However, the church does not investigate.

Slide 21: The SPRC Chair will speak on behalf of the church to the Dir. Of Communications. This person will work in cooperation with Dir. of Communications at the NC Conference office. This is so important for the investigation part of the procedure.

Slide 22: Protect the alleged victim and alleged abuser from public speculation – be pastoral; be church. Confidentiality is critical.

Slide 23: Discuss available resources. Encourage participants to frequently visit our NCC Safe Sanctuaries webpage for information including The NC Conference Safe Sanctuaries Policy, and the following:

- Sample Policies
- Church Safety and Security
- Ministry with Registered Sex Offenders
- Insurance
- Background Checks
- How to Request Help from the Safe Sanctuaries Team
- Media Center Resources
- Sexual Misconduct Hotline
- Reporting Abuse and Neglect

Slide 24: Covenant Prayer: I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.