



DUE DILIGENCE – be proactive and be prepared!

Why Safe Sanctuaries?

1. Protect our children, youth and vulnerable adults
2. Protect our staff and volunteers
3. Protect our church's resources/ assets for mission and ministry

The Facts

- Happens anywhere, in any neighborhood, religion or church group, racial or ethnic groups, and among the rich, the poor and everywhere in between.
- 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 5 boys are sexually abused before the age of 18.
- More than 90% of sexual abuse is committed by someone the victim knows, loves or trusts.
- A typical pedophile will commit 117 sex crimes in their lifetime.
- Abusers can be anyone: family members, neighbors, friends, doctors, coaches, youth leaders or clergy members.
- 30% of sexual abuse is never reported.
- Most sexual abuse happens to children between the ages of 12 and 17.
- 1 in 5 children are solicited sexually while on the Internet before the age of 18.
- More than 90% of vulnerable adults with developmental disabilities will be sexually abused at some point in their lives.

The Reality

1. Many cases of abuse
2. The church is not exempt
3. There are many costs
 - Victims
 - Financial
 - Ministry/Reputation

General Rules of Safer Sanctuaries

1. Criminal Background Check
2. The two-deep rule
3. Adults must be unrelated
4. Appropriate ratio of adults to vulnerable people maintained
5. Open sight and sound lines
6. The five year older rule
7. Up to date release forms
8. Separate shower and bathroom facilities
9. Separate sleeping quarters
10. Personal space without shared beds

The Specifics – 5 Simple Rules

1. Listen to kids
2. Healthy touch and consent
3. Check-in and Check-out process in place
4. Off-site/traveling has same rules
5. Safety in numbers

Common Questions & Concerns

How are we supposed to do ministry with all these rules?

How do we implement all of this in unique situations?

Who is responsible for making sure this gets done and rules are followed?

Mandatory Reporting

Determine if the child, youth or vulnerable adult is in immediate danger.

If yes → call 911

If no → **1-855-GA-CHILD (1-855-422-4453)** An oral report should be made within 24 hours to Child Protective Services or appropriate law enforcement.

DOCUMENT EVERYTHING!

**Church staff and volunteers are mandatory reporters.*

For more information: www.sgaumc.org/safesanctuaries

