

## **How We Protect Children from Abuse(Summary):**

- 1. Volunteer Screening:** No sex offenders, or child abusers are permitted to teach or provide any care to our minors. To enforce this policy, we have a rigid screening process through which all workers must go in order to be care givers or teach. This process demands things like criminal history checks, references, required minimum period of prior church attendances, and other screening procedures.
- 2. Safe Discipline:** In disciplinary situations the church forbids all child care workers from engaging in the following corporal punishments: rough handling, spanking, hitting, slapping, pushing, biting, choking, hair-pulling, finger-flicking, poking, yelling and screaming, insulting, etc. Physical or psychological mistreatment is never acceptable. For more details on how we discipline, a number of tips on discipline are available from this department.
- 3. Happy Teachers:** All teachers are encouraged to stay fresh, and not become over-worked. Stressed out teachers must sit out to prevent bad situations.
- 4. Safe Classrooms:** To prevent any type of situation where abuse can occur, we have a “no alone policy.” Unauthorized personnel are not allowed into the classrooms. Policies are even in place to protect children in bathrooms, vehicles, counseling settings, and settings of discipline.  
For accountability, all classrooms where children will be present must have an open door, window, or peep hole to allow a clear view of the classroom activities. Additionally, rooms are subjected to random inspections during class sessions to check how the class is going.
- 5. Trained Volunteers:** Volunteers are fully and properly trained in childcare. One area is that of warning signs for abuse. The law requires childcare workers and pastors to be “mandatory reporters.” This means that we must report to the authorities any signs or situations probable to the cause of abuse, whether the abuse occurred at home, school, or wherever. We are required to report both the incident and the offender.
- 6. Special Abuse-prevention Policies:** Our church has established Abuse-preventing policies for field trips and overnight trips that give guidance for proper staffing and proper authorization. Policies exist that require safe and qualified drivers on trips. Even gift-giving is taken into consideration to ensure proper protection for children.