

Child Protection Policies

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Background checks are not enough. It's important to have a policy that includes an application, background checks, reference checks, and then enforce it in order to prevent abuse.

The first step in putting together a child protection policy is to put together a team of people to help oversee the process. This team should be small enough to work quickly and efficiently but also large enough to distribute the workload. This workload includes both the creation of the policy but also the implementation.

General Overall Information for Sexual Abuse Prevention (includes assessment and what a good policy and process should include):

<https://www.churchmutual.com/169/Sexual-Abuse-Prevention>

Model Policies:

ELCA (Sample Sexual Misconduct Prevention): <https://www.elca.org/About/Churchwide/Office-of-the-Secretary/Legal-Issues/Sample-Policies> (policy is found listed here among other sample policies)

or for direct download here:

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Sample_Misconduct_Preventions_Policy.docx?_ga=2.47949735.1225923423.1583249982-716762241.1578342356

Good Shepherd Lutheran – Alexandria: <http://www.gslutheran.net/about-worship/child-protection-policy>

Faith Lutheran – Arlington: <https://flcva.org/child-protection-policy-cpp/>

Episcopal Church - https://episcopalchurch.org/files/model_policies.pdf

Background Checks:

Trusted Employees - <https://www.trustedemployees.com/>

Training Resources:

Darkness to Light (Stewards of God's Children training) - <https://www.d2l.org/>

Darkness to Light's online Stewards of Children training is available online at no cost. Go to the link below, create an account, select "Stewards of Children," and then add it to your cart. Use the code FLIPTHESWITCH to access the training at no cost.

https://d2l.csod.com/LMS/catalog/Welcome.aspx?tab_page_id=-67&tab_id=20000489

There might be county programs available to help cover the cost of the training. The Arlington County Child Advocacy Center offers in-person Stewards of Children training programs at no cost. Participants will learn how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. More information is available at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a45aca829a6fd0-stewards1>