

Church Security:

Preventing Sexual Misconduct

**Training
for:**

Security
Team,

Staff, and
Volunteers

Purpose of This Training

- Protect vulnerable individuals

- Recognize warning signs

- Implement prevention procedures

- Respond appropriately to incidents

Why This Matters

- Churches are trusted environments

- Misconduct can occur anywhere

- Prevention protects people and the church

Definition of Sexual Misconduct

- Any inappropriate sexual behavior

- Includes harassment, abuse, grooming

- Can involve adults or minors

Who is at Risk?

- Children and youth

- Vulnerable adults

- Anyone in isolated situations

What is Grooming?

-
- Building trust to exploit later
-
- Gradual boundary crossing
-
- Often goes unnoticed

Warning Signs (Behavioral)



- EXCESSIVE ONE-ON-ONE TIME



- FAVORITISM OR GIFT-GIVING



- ATTEMPTS TO ISOLATE INDIVIDUALS

Warning Signs (Physical & Emotional)



- Unexplained injuries



- Sudden behavior changes



- Fear of certain individuals

High-Risk Situations

- Unsupervised classrooms

- Private counseling sessions

- Transportation alone with minors

Key Prevention Policy: Two-Adult Rule

- Minimum of two adults present

- No one-on-one interactions

- Applies to all ministries

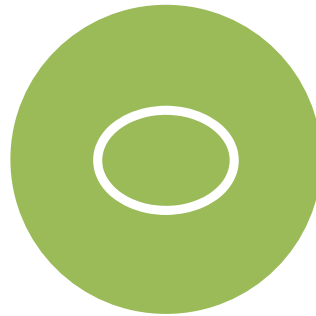
Access Control & Monitoring

- Check-in/check-out systems
- Security cameras where appropriate
- Controlled access to children's areas

Volunteer Screening



- BACKGROUND CHECKS



- REFERENCE CHECKS



- MANDATORY TRAINING

Reporting Procedures

- REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO LEADERSHIP

- DOCUMENT FACTS ONLY

- CONTACT AUTHORITIES WHEN REQUIRED

Do's and Don'ts

DO: Follow policies, report concerns

DON'T: Ignore red flags, investigate yourself

Creating a
Safe
Culture

- Encourage transparency

- Empower reporting

- Continuous training

Understanding the Offender

- There is NO visual profile for molesters
- Most appear helpful, trustworthy, and responsible
- Abusers come from all segments of society
- Many are married, educated, and have families

The Reality of Sexual Abuse

- 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys experience abuse before age 18

- 90% of victims are abused by someone they know and trust

- Less than 10% of abusers will ever encounter the criminal justice system

Offender Behavior & Patterns

- The average offender may have 50–150 victims

- First offense often occurs at age 13–14

- Average age of prosecution is around 35

- Abuse often continues for years before discovery

Grooming: The Critical Threat

- Abusers groom children AND gatekeepers

- Build trust before abuse occurs

- Gradual boundary violations

- Often overlooked or misunderstood

Organizational Risk Factors

-
- Protective barriers can be critically low
-
- Creates opportunity for predators
-
- Failure to act increases risk to children and students **
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- Churches must proactively implement safeguards

Your Role as Gatekeepers

- Staff and volunteers are the first line of defense
- Must recognize grooming behaviors
- Enforce policies consistently **
- Report concerns immediately

Grooming: How It Works

- Targets child

- Gains trust of parents

- Builds trust with organization

- Gradually breaks boundaries



- **Key concepts of grooming:**
- Building trust with the child and family
- Gradual boundary violations
- Isolation tactics
- Desensitization to touch and secrecy
- Manipulation and control

Sexual Grooming

<https://youtu.be/L6xnzioAkrq?si=2UFTzgw7EUKWZEuN>

Why Churches Are Vulnerable

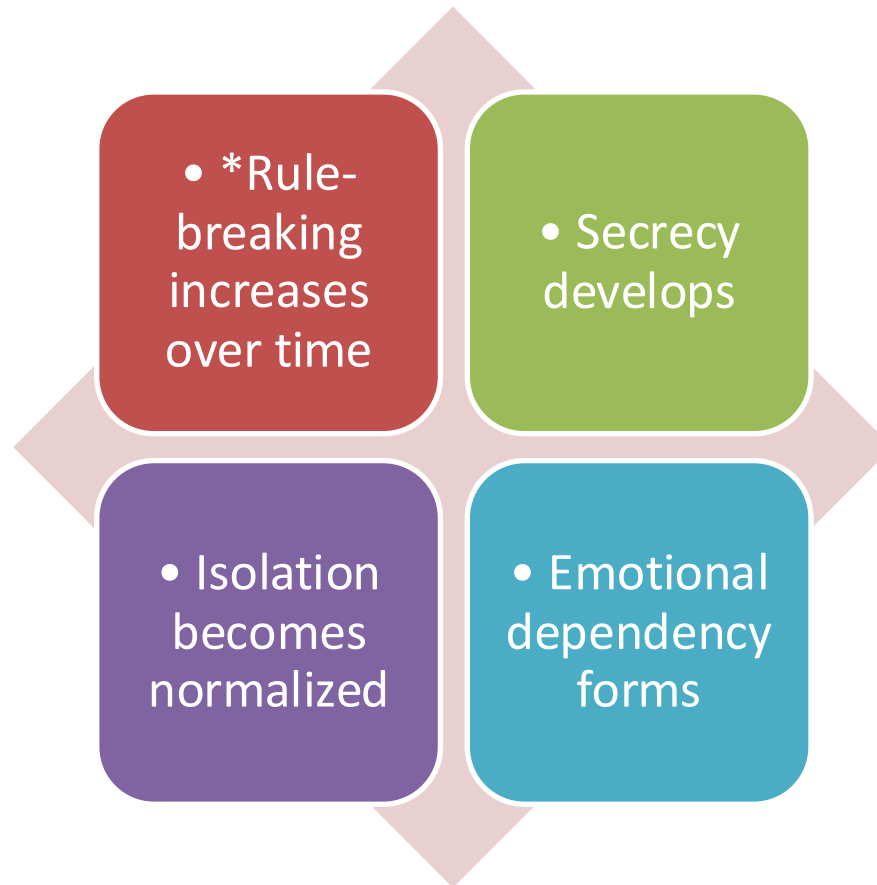
- High trust environments

- Volunteer-driven

- *Inconsistent policy enforcement

- Desire to believe the best

Red Flag Escalation



Final Thoughts

- Safety is everyone's responsibility

- Stay alert and proactive

- When in doubt, report