

Safe Sanctuaries for North Georgia Conference Children's Events

According to the Conference's Child Abuse Protection Policy:

All District and Conference ministries with children/youth shall be governed by these guidelines:

- A minimum of two adults shall be present at all times. The number of workers required for each event (above the minimum of two) will be determined by the number and age of the participants and the nature of the activities. (Note: 6 students to 1 adult of the same gender for Children's retreats)
- If both boys and girls are participants, then the adult leaders should include both men and women.
- Unauthorized visitors will not be allowed to visit the premises or remain with the group.
- Participants will not be allowed to leave the designated meeting area without permission/supervision.
- During ministry events, one-on-one activities shall not be conducted "behind closed doors" or in an isolated area away from trained supervisory persons.
- All ministry events will be carried out in appropriate locations with adequate equipment and trained adult supervisors present.

The General Conference mandate of 1996 requires all UM Churches to have policies and procedures in place to ensure no harm comes to those under the age of 18 while they are in our care and ministry. Simply put, every church should plan to screen, train, and supervise all workers and establish a suspected abuse -reporting plan that complies with Georgia state law. This form is being required to continually make you aware of this mandate, but also to make sure that we are complying at all Conference Children's Events.

For more information, you may obtain a copy of the Conference Abuse Prevention Policy at www.ngumc.org/safesanctuaries. Information about writing and implementing a safe sanctuaries policy and procedures for your congregation can be found in *Safe Sanctuaries: Reducing the Risk of Abuse in the Church for Children and Youth* (Melton, Discipleship Resources, 2008).

I certify that I am the group leader that is "in charge" of my group. On behalf of myself and as an agent of the congregation that I represent, I accept responsibility for making the appropriate arrangements to fulfill these expectations for this North Georgia Conference Children's Event.

Signature: _____

Please print your name: _____

Name of Church or group: _____

Town where Church is located: _____

Date _____