

# CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) has defined child abuse and neglect as "any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caregiver that results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse, or exploitation, or an act or failure to act that presents an imminent risk of serious harm."



## WHO? IS RESPONSIBLE

all of us

## MORE THAN SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS, NURSERY WORKERS, CHURCH STAFF, SCHOOL TEACHERS

- Family ministry leaders
- **All of Your Church**
- Anyone with a minor under 18
- AND
- Anyone with vulnerable adults

## BEST PRACTICES

Recognize your position as a trusted adult when receiving any reports of abuse or neglect from a child- this is a relationship that will allow the child to be confident in your protection of them as they disclose.

Limit questioning of children regarding specifics of the abuse- research confirms children will only disclose specifics a limited amount of times.

When asking questions, include only open-ended questions working to not lead a child or vulnerable adult to conclusions you may have.

## WHAT?

### TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT ABUSE

You do not have to have specific facts or exact proof, only a reasonable suspicion to file a report with the Department of Child and Family Services.



Case workers will provide investigation to ensure all parties are appropriately cared for and have any needed resources.

## WHEN REPORTING BE PREPARED WITH AS MANY DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS AS POSSIBLE.

1

NAME

2

HOME ADDRESS

3

DETAILS

## WHEN?

Mandated reporting is required within **24 hours** of concern of suspected abuse.

☆ Review your specific Safe Sanctuary Policy to follow reporting chain

## WHERE?

anywhere

Abuse and neglect can take place in homes, churches, and anywhere children and vulnerable adults are present.

always

LET YOUR SENIOR PASTOR & DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT KNOW AS WELL



## HOW? REPORTING 101

- Local Law Enforcement
- State Wide DFCS Reporting Line: 1-855-GACHILD (1-855-422-4453)

## DURING THE TIME OF SOCIAL DISTANCING

Be sure to have open eyes and ears for suspicious comments made by minors and vulnerable adults during this time. With less interaction, **YOU HAVE A GREATER RESPONSIBILITY TO NOTICE AND REPORT SUSPECTED ABUSE.**

1

### ZOOM RESPONSIBILITIES

☆ Reporting potential abuse & neglect can take place during distancing and pandemic.

☆ See something or hear something....

say something

2

### UPDATE SAFE SANCTUARIES POLICY

☆ Ensure all who volunteer with children and vulnerable adults are up to date with trainings

☆ Digital trainings and background screenings are helpful in this season

## WHY?

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14, NIV