

FAMILY MINISTRIES - STUDENT & VOLUNTEER DIGITAL COMMUNICATION POLICY



Texting and electronic communication can be a vital part of youth ministry work, but their improper use can produce serious consequences. Calvary Church desires to promote safety and to create a healthy environment for texting and electronic communication between its volunteers and students who participate in youth ministry activities. Calvary Church believes it is essential to provide safe and sacred space for students to experience God, participate in ministry, and grow in community. To that end, **Family Ministries has a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY regarding inappropriate interactions between volunteers and students**. Any adult who violates this policy will be permanently removed from ministry with minors at Calvary Church and a full investigation will be launched.

Should an accusation of inappropriate digital communication arise against a student a Ministry Leader should be notified immediately. The Family Ministries Pastor and/or Ministry Leader will set a meeting with the family to discuss the issue and consequences.

1. Volunteers who want to communicate with minors using text messaging, e-mail, social networking websites or other forms of electronic communication must first sign a volunteer contract and go through leader training on digital communication.
2. Volunteers and students may not transmit any content that is illicit, unsavory, abusive, pornographic, discriminatory, harassing, or disrespectful when communicating with each other or with minors involved in ministry activities.
3. Volunteers and students commit to posting in accordance with our guidelines including but not limited to dressing modestly, language, recreational activity, etc. This will apply to live digital interactions as well (such as Zoom meetings, Google Hangouts, etc.).
4. Volunteers will make an effort to not transmit any personal information pertaining to a minor without the parent's written permission. Personal information may include such things as a minor's name, phone number, e-mail address, or photograph.
5. Volunteers who become aware of possible child abuse through electronic media must immediately notify their Ministry Leader.
6. All information, images, or videos shared electronically between students and Calvary volunteers are **NOT** considered confidential.
7. Students or Volunteers who become aware of a violation of this policy will notify the Ministry Leader or Family Ministries pastor immediately.

I agree to abide by these guidelines stated above and be above reproach in my digital communication.

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____