

FAQ about the Child + Youth Protection Manual 2025 update

1. What's included in the update?

The CYPM 2025 update includes the manual, training video, and website:

- 1) The manual has been divided into three sections to make it easier to understand and use.
- 2) A 45-minute training video, including questions for group discussion, was produced for use with volunteer teams and staff.
- 3) The Foursquare website has sample forms, reports, and other helpful items.

2. How should I roll out this update with my volunteers?

Ideally, church leaders would share Section 1 of the manual with all volunteers (about 16 pages) and then watch the new training video together in a setting where discussion can happen. Section 1 was specifically designed for anyone involved in ministry with minors.

Please remember that licensed ministers and ministry leaders are responsible for the content of all three sections of the manual.

3. What is meant by one-on-one meetings?

Although the policy of a two-adult minimum has always been our standard and remains, we have included language in this update that specifies that this standard applies even in public meeting places. For instance, a one-on-one coffee meeting in a public place is prohibited unless another staff member, volunteer, parent, or pastor can observe and interrupt the meeting.

We encourage leaders to multiply themselves by bringing someone along, asking a parent to stay on the other side of the coffee shop, or coming up with creative solutions!

4. I heard the background check policy changed. What's the change?

The requirement of a background check before serving with minors remains unchanged. This update shifts to ministry leaders knowing and following their state's guidelines for how often background checks must be renewed. Instead of Foursquare mandating the renewal period, each church will follow its state's guidelines for renewal.

The policy also reminds leaders to ensure that their regular background checks include national offender registry checks.

5. The electronic communication policy says we shouldn't text minors individually. Then how should we communicate?

While we discourage private messaging between staff/volunteers and minors, church leaders are encouraged to develop pathways for communication that are observable and interruptible by other adults. For example, they could add an additional adult to a text thread or use a free group messaging platform like Remind, GroupMe, Band, etc.

Simply put, no adult should be alone with a minor as part of our ministries.