



# THE FOURSQUARE CHURCH

## Updated Child & Youth Protection Manual & Resources

Equipping You to Protect Minors in Ministry

Learn how these updates strengthen safe, God-honoring environments for the next generation.





# Why We Prioritized This Update

## Update

Biblical Foundation

- **Children are a gift from God!**

*"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him." (Psalm 127:3 NLT)*

- **We must remove the barriers that prevent children from coming to Jesus.**

*"One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so He could touch and bless them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering Him. When Jesus saw what was happening, He was angry with his disciples. He said to them, 'Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children.'" (Mark 10:13-14 NLT)*

- **God defends the vulnerable + voiceless.**

*"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed." (Proverbs 31:8 NLT)*

# Foursquare Perspective

❤️ **Children have always been valued** in Foursquare history + identity.

📖 **We're all learning:** Embracing new practices helps us grow.

🛡️ **We're better together:** Our shared "why" motivates us to make sacrifices.



# What New Resources Are Available?

## Manual

Updated content,  
active links, reorganized for  
staff/volunteers

## Training Video

Essential practices to protect  
minors and foster safe  
environments

## Website

Dynamic hub for CYPM, training, and resources



[Volunteer Form Templates](#) →



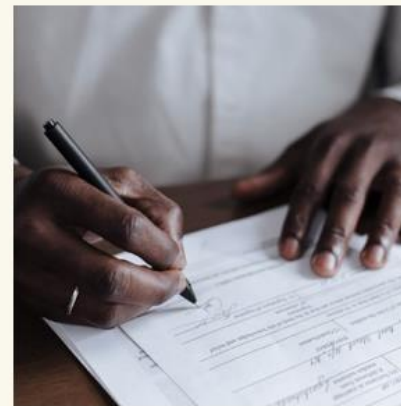
[Supplemental resources](#) →



[Additional training materials](#) →



[Staff + leader resources](#) →



[State mandatory reporter laws](#) →



[Background check information](#) →

# Key Update #1: Ratios

Age Group	Ratio	Minimum
Birth to 12 months	1:3	2 adults
Toddlers (1 to 3 y.o.)	1:4	2 adults
Preschool (3 to 5 y.o.)	1:7	2 adults
Kindergarten to 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1:10	2 adults
4 <sup>th</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> grade	1:12	2 adults
Youth (12 + older)	1:20	2 adults

*\*If your local context has 6th grade as part of middle school/junior high, you may follow the "Youth" ratio. If 6th grade is paired with elementary grades, use the 4th to 6th grade ratio.*



## Previous ratios for reference

Birth to 2.5 years	3 children to 1 adult
Preschool (2.5 to 5 years)	8 children to 1 adult
Elementary (5 to 9 years)	10 children to 1 adult
Tweeners (9 to 12 years)	15 children to 1 adult
Youth (12 and older)	25 youth to 1 adult

# Key Update #2 – Junior Helpers

Minors aged 12-17 who volunteer in ministry programs are recommended to be at least 3 years older than the minors they are helping.

Junior helpers must always be under adult supervision + should never be responsible for monitoring restroom procedures (diapering, toileting, etc.).

Junior helpers do not count toward ratio numbers of children or take the place of an adult.





## Key Update #3 –

# Electronic Communications + Devices

## Devices

- ! Discourage private messages between adults + minors  
Redirect any private messages from a minor to a space that is observable + interruptible, such as including another adult in a text message
- ! Encourage group messaging + group platforms  
Use options like Band, GroupMe, Slack, Remind, etc. + include “office hours” that are appropriate for general communication
- ! Church Devices  
Consider the accessibility of electronic devices at church + determine what controls and monitoring needs to be in place

## Key Update #4 – One on One Meetings

Meetings with minors must be in places + spaces that are **observable and interruptible**

Private one-on-one meetings within the visibility of other staff, volunteers, or pastors are permitted.

Interactions in isolation and outside the visibility of other staff, volunteers, or pastors are prohibited.

# Key Update #5 – Background Checks + Visitor Policy



## Enhanced Screening

Background check requirements according to your STATE guideline  
+ national and state sex offender registry checks



## Supervision by 2 fully-screened adults

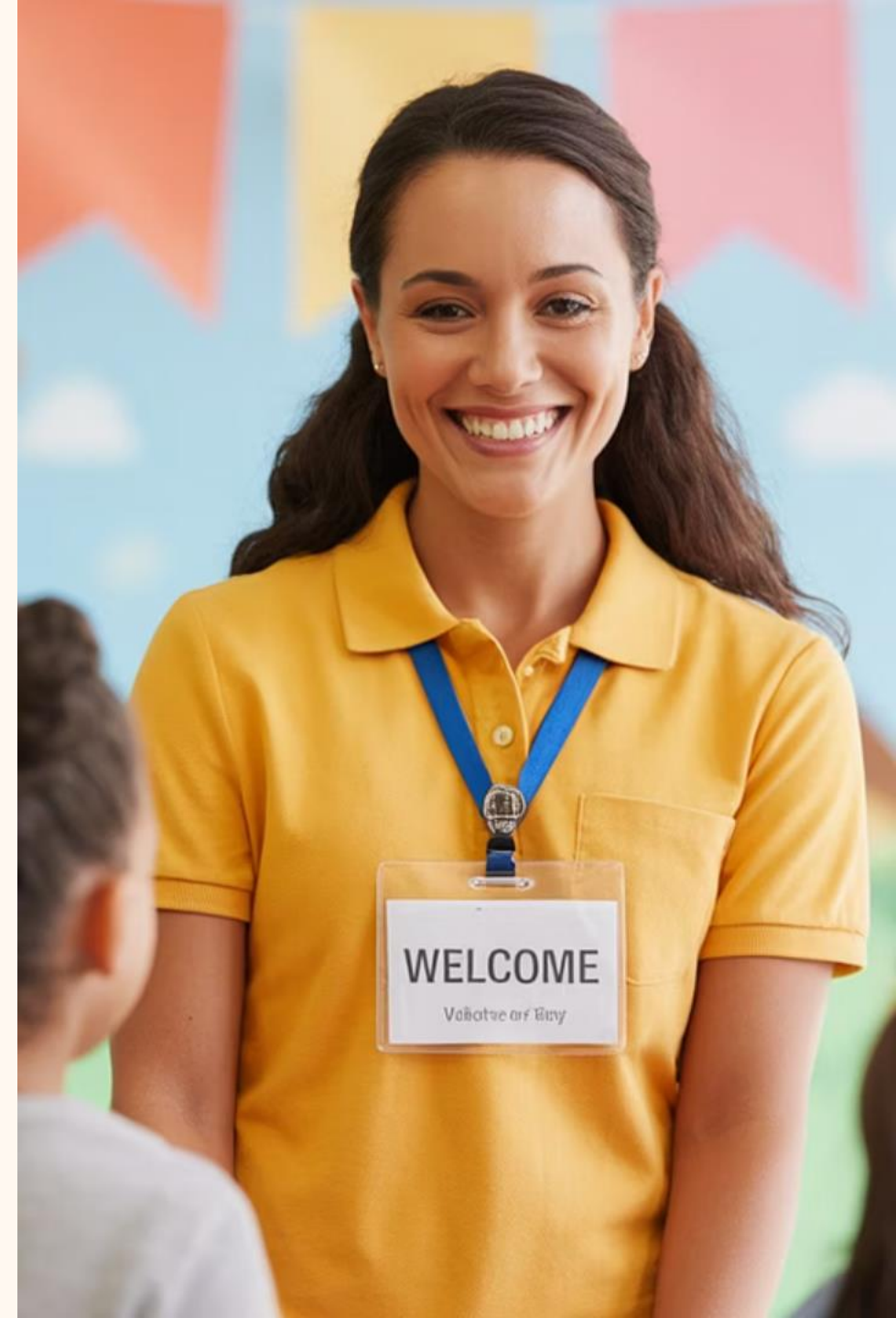
Application + reference checks are our best defense!



## Visitor Identification

"VISITOR" badges required

Visitors never alone with minors





## Next Steps & Resources

### Access Resources

Visit Foursquare website for CYPM, video, forms

### Complete Training

All workers must finish Praesidium's protection training

### Stay Vigilant

Report concerns, follow protocols



# Thank You for Protecting Our Children!



Together we create safe, God-honoring environments for the next generation