



INDICATORS OF CHILD MOLESTORS

PLEASE have a church representative check **Megan's Law Registry** for California (www.meganslaw.ca.gov) or the US Department of Justice's registry (www.nsopw.gov) at least quarterly, checking congregation members and visitors who have attended three or more times. Usually there is someone at the church who would easily recognize members' names (a secretary, the pastor, or administrator). If a name is found on the registry, follow the directions in your Safe Congregation Policy (or call Kyros for the current "best practices.")

Those who molest children don't want to be found out, so will do anything in their power to blend in, manipulate, and keep their behavior secret. Therefore there is no easy way to recognize who might harm children.

Though statistically most child molesters are male, don't forget that women could be also. And don't assume that only adults harm children; many molesters are teenagers (and some younger).

POSSIBLE INDICATORS

- poor peer relationships, yet an interest in relationships with children
- poor self-esteem (though may be covered by seeming self-confidence)
- pattern of family trauma in childhood
(that has not been addressed in therapy or other recovery efforts)
- charming, but manipulative, personality

TRUST YOUR SUSPICIONS

- You may be thrilled with a young man who is always available for helping with childcare—but he's a bit of a loner, without friends his own age or interest in activities that other kids his age enjoy.
- You are delighted that someone who just joined the church immediately volunteers to participate in the church youth program or teach Sunday School—or donate a substantial sum to the youth program.
- A divorced mother meets someone at church who is eager to mentor one of her three boys. She is so relieved to have an occasional break from parenting and also appreciates her boys getting some male attention.