



## **Wesley Safe Sanctuaries Policy**

### **A Child/Youth Abuse Prevention Policy**

**APPENDIX 4 – Guidelines/Sign-off For Working With Youth**

#### **Guidelines for Working with Youth**

Our purpose is to provide a safe environment for our youth so that maximum Christian growth can occur. As a leader, you are building up the BODY OF CHRIST through witness (example and word) and relationships. Young people are desperately searching for models of Christian living. Remember 1 Corinthians 11:1 - "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."

#### **As a worker or volunteer, I will:**

1. Treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity and consideration.
2. Avoid situations where I am alone with youth at Church activities. Two non-related adults should be present at all times. When this is not possible, a second adult will check in on the activity at a random interval. Adults should not to be alone with a child in an area that is free from public view.
3. Use positive reinforcement rather than criticism or competition when working with youth.
4. Report suspected abuse, including self-abuse (i.e., cutting, talk of suicide, drug use, abuse of alcohol or tobacco, etc.) to the Wesley Youth Director.
5. Cooperate fully in any investigation of abuse.
6. Abstain from any inappropriate interactions including cursing, bullying, references to sexual orientation, vulgar language, belittling language, vulgar actions, bullying, sexual acts, sexual or inappropriate references, nudity, skinny-dipping, mooning, 'pantsing' (coming up to someone and quickly pulling down his or her shorts), etc. and abusive language. Report all violations of these activities, by youth or volunteers, to the Wesley Youth Director
7. Refrain from the use of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, profanity or inappropriate talk in the presence of youth.
8. Any injuries should be addressed as soon as possible. Seek medical attention as necessary. Write up an injury report form found in designated baskets. Give one copy of the form to the parent and one to the ministry coordinator.
9. Provide a safe environment for the youth by allowing only scheduled workers and parents or guardians to visit the classroom. Other visitors need to be approved by the supervising Wesley staff member.
10. Only use media material (including movies, TV, video games, etc.) that have a G, PG, or E rating. Materials with any other rating must be approved by Youth Director. When in doubt, ask.
11. Avoid exposing youth to germs by requesting a substitute from Youth Director when having a fever or other contagious ailment.
12. Not use physical means such as striking, spanking, shaking, slapping, or kicking as a way of correcting behavior.
13. Respect and work cooperatively with staff and other volunteers.
14. Avoid inappropriate physical or sexual contact including back rubs, massages, kissing, sitting on laps, laying in laps, full body contact, 'pantsing', touching, etc.
15. Wear appropriate modest clothing for working with youth. Avoid changing clothes in front of students or exposing oneself to students, staff, or volunteers.
16. Obey all Georgia state traffic laws when transporting youth or fellow workers.
17. Respect the rules put into place by the Wesley staff

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed By (Signature): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Director (Signature): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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