



## What is Sexual Abuse?

Child sexual abuse is any form of sexual contact or exploitation in which a minor is used for the sexual stimulation of the perpetrator. Such behavior may be violent or non-violent, touching or non-touching. It is always criminal.

Volunteer training will include behavioral, physical, and verbal signs to watch for that may indicate possible abuse. Training will also include what to do if abuse is suspected.

## Response Team

Rob Peterson (Sr. Pastor)  
Greg Longworth (Attorney)  
Lynne McLaughlin (Minister to Children)  
Steve Raisch (Student Minister)  
Lisa Udell (Minister to Children)  
Andrew Vanover (Associate Pastor)  
LV Wynalda (Social Worker)

## Contact Information

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# Child Protection Policy

Thornapple Covenant Church

## Screening

Any volunteers who desires to work on a regular basis in Children's Ministries at Thornapple Covenant Church must complete a written application form and give permission to do a criminal background check. This form is available through the Children's Ministries office or on our website ([www.thornapple.org/children-family-ministry-volunteer](http://www.thornapple.org/children-family-ministry-volunteer)). All information is kept confidential.



## Welcome

Welcome to Thornapple Covenant Children's Ministries. We count it a privilege to come alongside you in the nurturing and developing of your child's faith. We also believe that safety has to be a top priority for this to take place.

Please read through this brochure for important information regarding our Child Protection Policy. This will help ensure that Thornapple continues to be a safe place to grow in faith for our children

## Why is this important?

Child sexual abuse is widespread and often occurs when an adult misuses his or her authority over children. Unfortunately, churches and church-affiliated institutions are not immune to such tragedies. While a church is a "community of trust", it must also be vigilant about keeping its most vulnerable in its care safe.

The following are a set of guidelines that seek to ensure a safe environment for our children. Through screening, supervision, and education of staff and volunteers in Children's Ministries, we hope to effectively reduce the risk of child sexual abuse ever taking place in our midst.



## Nursery Workers

1. Be willing to submit to proper screening and to receive updated training when it is given.
2. Keep the "accountability" window of the classroom door or in the lower lobby uncovered.
3. Be sure there is a minimum of 2 adults (age 18 and up) in the nursery at all times.
4. It is preferred that only women diaper children or take them to the bathroom.
5. Coordinators will provide increased supervision by making random checks on all operating nurseries.
6. If you have questions about a specific situation, ask the Nursery Coordinator or a Minister to Children to advise you.

## Elementary Volunteers

1. Be willing to submit to proper screening and to receive updated training when it is given.
2. Keep the "accountability" window of the classroom uncovered.
3. Classes of children under Kindergarten should have 2 adults in the classroom.
4. Only adults should take children to the bathroom. Please check to see that the bathroom is unoccupied before sending the child in. The adult should wait in the hall but if assistance is needed, please keep the stall door open.
5. The Ministers to Children will randomly check all classrooms.
6. Off-site activities with children should have 2 adults present. Off-site or overnight activities should be cleared through the Ministers to Children prior to the event.
7. If you have any questions about specific situations, please ask the Ministers to Children to advise you.