

POLICY #6 CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

These guidelines do not restrict anyone from worshiping in this church. They exist to protect the children of the church as well as the adults.

1. All children's ministries will be open to observation by parents.
2. No adult worker shall be alone or hidden from view with children on church grounds or during church activities.
3. All nursery workers must be of legal age (18) and mentally competent to care for minor children. Nursery teams shall be composed of either, one man and one woman, as a married couple, or two women.
4. Final release of children from any church program will be to parents, guardians or to a responsible adult duly designated by such in writing to church staff. With the exception of Nursery, parents may allow an older sibling to pick up younger siblings from church related children's activities as long as said sibling is listed on the approved release form. Sunday School teachers may release students to either the parent, designated appointee/sibling listed on the release form, or to the children's church team for that Sunday. For Nursery, parents must designate on the Nursery sign-in sheet the names of any legal adult who may pick up their child (ren).
5. Sunday School teachers of minor children are to maintain oversight of their pupils until released to their parents, guardians, Children's Church or nursery staff.
6. During functions of the church that are not specifically children's ministries, such as potlucks, picnics, etc. parents are responsible for the supervision of their own child/children.
 - a. During congregational business meetings, if the church provides child care, children may either participate or sit in the meeting with their parents.
 - b. During congregational business meetings where child care is not provided, should parents elect not to arrange child care off grounds, children are to sit with parents in the meeting.
7. Any person with child abuse convictions shall be subject to the following:
 - a. No involvement in any Sunday School class other than an adult Sunday School class.
 - b. No involvement in any children's or youth ministries or any special yearly program or Vacation Bible School.
 - c. Will not have any keys to church property.

- d. Will abstain from anything that will bring suspicion upon him or herself or the church, such as photographing children on church property or at any church functions.
- e. Will not speak about the restrictions placed on him/her by the court in front of any children of the church.
- f. Will not pick up, hold or hug any child within the church, on its grounds or at any church activity.
- g. Will not be allowed in the church alone.
- h. Will not serve in any position of leadership in the church.

Any violation of these guidelines will be promptly reported to the Pastor, who will immediately report them to the Lassen County District Attorney's and Sheriff's offices, and a restraining order may be obtained.

- 8. All persons wishing to work with children must read and sign a copy of *POLICY #6*. In order to remain qualified to work with children, volunteers must complete annual child safety training. All persons wishing to work with children must comply with current child safety processes, such as fingerprinting and/or background check, and be subject to approval by the Official Board before they may begin serving.
- 9. Oversight of *items 7 & 8 of POLICY #6* shall be the responsibility of an appointed member of the Official Board.
- 10. New child care workers must attend a Child Safety Class. Renewing child care workers may complete training by handout or online.

By signing below, I affirm I have read, understand and agree to abide by the foregoing policy #6 of the Standish Bible Church.

Printed Name

Signature

Date