



Child Youth Protection Program

What Volunteers and Employees
Need to Know when Working with
Children or Youth at AFUMC

Statistics on Child Abuse

- In 2006 there were 92,952 incidents of child abuse reported in Georgia.
- Of that 5,633 cases were investigated in Fulton County, which was the highest number reported in the state.
- In 2006 there were approximately 10.8 children per 1000 children that were considered Substantiated Abuse.

Definition of Child Abuse

(As defined by the Official Code of Georgia)

1. Physical injury or death inflicted upon a child by a parent or caretaker thereof by other than accidental means; provided however, physical forms of discipline may be used as long as there is no physical injury to the child;
2. Neglect or exploitation of a child by a parent of caretaker thereof;
3. Sexual abuse of a child; or
4. Sexual exploitation of a child;
5. However, no child who in good faith is being treated solely by spiritual means through prayer in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination by a duly accredited practitioner thereof shall, for that reason alone be considered to be an abused child.

Forms of Abuse

- Physical
- Physical Neglect
- Sexual
- Emotional

Indicators of Abuse

<i>Type</i>	<i>Physical Indicators</i>	<i>Behavioral Indicators</i>
Physical	Unexplained bruises, welts, burns, fractures, dislocations, bald patches on scalp	Aggressive, withdrawn, afraid, wary
Physical Neglect	Hunger, poor hygiene or dress, lack of supervision, underweight	Begging or stealing food, fatigue, takes on adult role

Indicators of Abuse

<i>Type</i>	<i>Physical Indicators</i>	<i>Behavioral Indicators</i>
Sexual	Difficulty walking or standing, dirty or torn under-clothing, pain (or injury) in genital area or in urination	Depressed, withdrawn, worried, isolated, avoid physical contact, inappropriate sex play
Emotional	Speech or communicative disorder, delayed physical development, physical condition (allergies or asthma) enhanced	Sucking, rocking behavior, anti-social, destructive, neurotic, behavioral extremes, developmental delays



Factors that may lead to abuse

- Parental/Caregiver Immaturity
 - Parents are young or inexperienced.
 - Caregiver may not understand behavior and needs or what is expected at different stages of a child's development
- Unrealistic Expectations
 - Child is not able to perform because the expectations are too high for his or her age.



Factors that may lead to abuse

- Social Isolation
 - Lack of friends or family to help with support or companionship for the parent or caregiver
- Unmet Emotional Needs
 - May use the child to satisfy need for love, acceptance, or self-esteem
- Frequent Crisis
 - Financial, job, marital, legal stresses, major illness...problems that may cause the parent stress so he/she takes it out on the child

Factors that may lead to abuse

- Poor Childhood Experiences
 - Mistreated as a child so don't know how to relate in a non-violent way.
- Drug or Alcohol Problems
- Mental Illness
 - Less than 5% of child abuse are due to mental illness. Most cases of abuse come from the general population.

Types of Disclosures

- Indirect
 - “My brother wouldn’t let me sleep last night.”
 - “Mr. Jones wears funny underwear.”
 - “My babysitter keeps bothering me.”

Types of Disclosures

- Disguised
 - “I know someone who is being touched in a bad way.”
 - “What would happen if someone said she was being molested, but she wasn’t believed?”
- Disclosures with Strings Attached
 - “I have a problem; but if I tell you, you have to promise not to tell.”

What NOT to say during a Disclosure

- “Why” questions (Why didn’t you stop him or her, why are you telling me this?)
- Are you sure this is happening?
- Are you telling the truth?
- Let me know if it happens again.
- What did you do to make this happen?



What To Do When a Child Discloses

1. Find a private place to talk.
2. Reassure the child...I believe you, I'm glad you told me, This is NOT your fault, _____ abuse is wrong.
3. Listen openly and calmly – try to keep your emotions and actions neutral.
4. Write down the facts & words as the child stated them using the Child/Youth Protection Program Incident Report.



What To Do When a Child Discloses

5. Report the disclosure as soon as possible to the appropriate program director.
6. Respect the child's need for confidentiality. Don't discuss the abuse with anyone other than those required by AFUMC policy and the law.
7. Follow-up with the program director to make sure a report has been made.

Georgia Legal Code on Reporting

The following persons having reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused, ***shall report*** or cause reports of that abuse to be made:

- Physicians licensed to practice medicine, interns or residents
- Hospital or medical personnel
- Dentist
- Licensed psychologists and persons participating in internships to obtain licensing
- Podiatrist
- Registered professional nurses or licensed practical nurses licensed pursuant
- Professional c counselors, social workers or marriage and family therapist licensed
- School teachers
- School administrators
- School guidance counselors, visiting teachers, school social workers , or school psychologist
- Child welfare agency personnel
- Child-counseling personnel
- Child service organization personnel
- Law enforcement personnel

Georgia Legal Code on Reporting Continued....

- Any person who makes a report or causes a report to be made to a child welfare agency or an appropriate police authority shall in so doing be immune from any civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed.
- Any person or official that is required to report a suspected case of child abuse who knowingly and willfully fails to do so shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

AFUMC Rules to Know

- **Two Adult Rule** – A minimum of two adults supervisors shall be present during a children/youth activity. One MUST be “registered”, which means they must have had the CYP training.
- **Open Door Policy** – If for some reason two adults are not present, you must leave your door open. The glass pane in the door must remain unobstructed.
- **Overnight Activities** – With parental permission, one adult may share a hotel room (or other sleeping area) with three or more youth of the same sex. They must have passed a background check and attended a CYP training.

AFUMC Rules to Know

- No worker under 18 will be responsible to supervise children/youth.
- No person convicted of, place on regular or deferred adjudicated probation, received pre-trial diversion, pled guilty, or nolo contendere to ANY offense involving sexual conduct or physical abuse with a child/youth may work with ANY child/youth at AFUMC.

AFUMC Rules to Know

- Restroom – Encourage parents to take children to the restroom before the activity
 - Nursery – only females will take children to the restroom. Only paid workers are allowed to change diapers.
 - Ages 3 – 2nd grade – adult will accompany the child to the door of the restroom
 - 3rd grade & up may go to the restroom unaccompanied.

AFUMC Transportation Rules

- Vehicles must be owned by the church, parent of a child/youth participating, child/youth worker, or rented by the church for transportation of the youth.
- Vehicles must have insurance coverage, in good running order, current license tag, safety inspection sticker, and passenger restraints.
- Vehicles must be multi-passenger.

AFUMC Drivers

- Drivers must be a worker of the church, parent of a participating child/youth, or licensed commercial driver, AND must be pre-approved by the appropriate administrator.
- Drivers must have a current, valid GA drivers license for the vehicle driven & be over 25.
- Drivers who are workers will be subject to periodic checks (approx. every 6 months) of their motor vehicle record.
- NO Driver is to transport a child/youth alone.

AFUMC Overnight

- Approved activity
- Signed Parental Permission form
- All adult supervisors must be fully screened by church, including background check.
- Rules of Conduct
 - Abide by CYP policies & procedures (team approach, etc.)
 - No child/youth will be allowed away from designated overnight area w/out prior permission of group leader & parents' signed permission.

AFUMC Overnight

- One adult may share a room (sleeping area) with 3 or more youth of the same sex. If sleeping area permits, two adults are preferred.
- Adults are not permitted to sleep in the same bed as a minor unless it is their own child.
- No couple of the opposite sex is to be left unsupervised.
- No members of the opposite sex will be allowed to sleep in the same room.
- 1 adult/8 children or youth. If the ratio can not be maintained the trip will be cancelled or the number of youth to obtain the correct ratio will be reduced.



Tips for Working with Children or Youth

- Always greet the child and the parent with a smile.
- If the child is small, squat down on their level to say hello.
- When a new child enters the activity, make sure to take them (by the hand if younger) to an area to get them involved or to meet other children or youth.



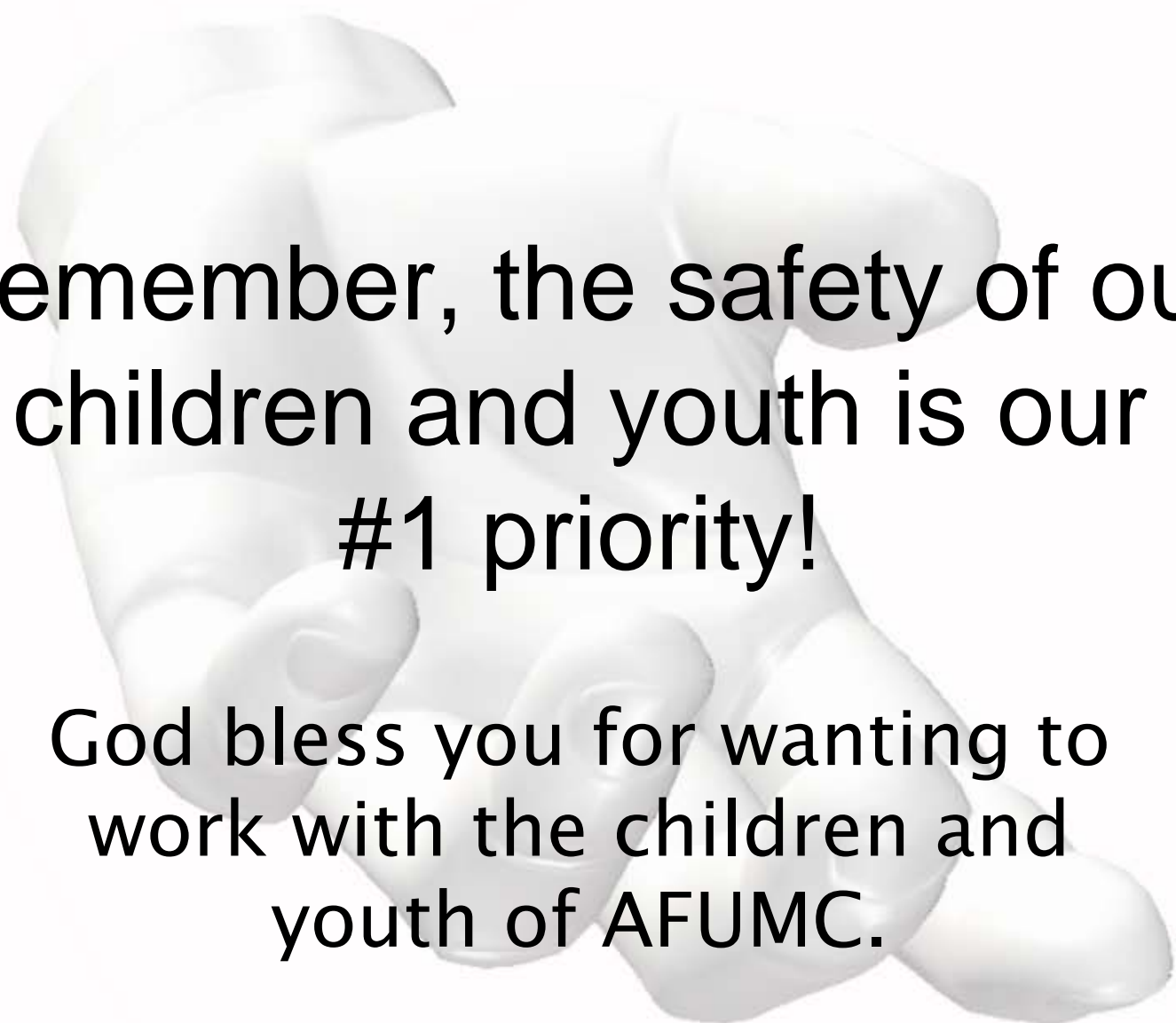
Tips for Working with Children or Youth

- If it is the first time for the child or youth, make sure the appropriate paperwork is filled out (green guest card for Sunday School).
- Make sure you know how to contact the parent in case of an emergency.
- If you take the children or youth to another location, count them before you leave the room, when you get there, before you leave the different location, and when you get back. **COUNT, COUNT, COUNT!**



Tips for Working with Children or Youth

- When working with younger children, make sure the door is closed (or half door if appropriate). Unless there are not 2 adults. **ALWAYS** keep your eye on the door!
- **NEVER** let a child or youth leave with someone other than the parent or approved guardian.



Remember, the safety of our
children and youth is our
#1 priority!

God bless you for wanting to
work with the children and
youth of AFUMC.