

Asbury United Methodist Church

Child and Youth Protection Policy Summary

Asbury UMC adopted a Child and Youth Protection Policy because children and youth matter to us, and we desire to make every reasonable effort to protect the children and youth entrusted to us from abuse and neglect.

Background checks are required for all adults who work with children and youth. Background checks remain valid for 3 years.

Church sponsored activities include procedures to avoid the isolation and secrecy present in environments where abuse and neglect most frequently occurs. This includes following the “Two Person/Open Door” rule”

- At least two (2) unrelated individuals 18 and older or at least 1 individual 18 and older with a supervised minor at least 14 years of age are required at all child and youth church sponsored activities.
- In the event that only one (1) individual 18 and older is present there should be no fewer than two (2) children or youth with the individual, and doors without windows to the classroom must remain open and any windows must have clear view into the classroom.
- The ministry leader must be contacted to resolve one-on-one situations that occur if only one (1) individual 18 and older and one (1) child or youth are present.

Alleged Incidents of abuse or neglect must be reported by:

- Calling the police (911).
- Calling the Child Protection Services Hotline (800-800-5556).
- Calling the Pastor, Staff Parish Committee Chair, or Lay Leader of Asbury UMC (812-372-4555).
- Completing and giving an Incident Report to the Pastor, Staff Parish Committee Chair, or Lay Leader of Asbury UMC.

Documents related to the Child and Youth Protection Policy may be found at the Asbury UMC web site: asburycolumbus.org.