

SAFETY BULLETIN

Spotlight on Church Safety | Volume 3 | 2006

In the News...

Sunday School Teacher Assaults Young Child

04/2005 — A married Baptist Sunday school teacher was found guilty of sexually touching a six-year-old girl in his class. Parents are deeply concerned because the teacher routinely took children to his home, and police fear there may be other victims.

Priest Caught Viewing Child Pornography

08/2005 — Police arrested a priest after a church maintenance worker noticed a pornographic photo of a child on the priest's computer. Authorities discovered hundreds of photos and mini-movies of naked children.

Youth Leader Admits to Sexual Abuse

02/2006 — A 29-year-old Methodist youth leader confessed to sexual contact with members of her youth group after parents discovered graphic language and suggestive photographs on her personal Web site. Parents had complained to the church pastor who waited four months before questioning her.

"I told my friend I didn't know what God had planned for me at the church, but it was probably involving the kids there."

He said, "Pray about it and let God guide you."

Posting in a Web site chat room for "Christian men who love boys."

Safety Tips...



Follow these tips to promote a safe church environment for children and youths in your care.

1. Don't permit employees or volunteers to take children away from the church, and make sure that all programs involve at least two adults.
2. Encourage parents to stay involved in church programs. They should feel free to drop by and observe at any time.
3. Develop a written policy that prohibits employees and volunteers from accessing, displaying, or possessing pornography on church property. Check computers to monitor compliance.
4. Provide sexual abuse prevention training to everyone in your church—from maintenance to food service to youth ministers to leadership. Every trained person provides another set of eyes and ears to keep your church and its ministries safe.
5. Teach middle- and high-school kids about their physical, emotional, and behavioral boundaries and what to do if someone tries to violate them.
6. Establish procedures for responding to complaints about employee or volunteer conduct. Identify who will respond, how quickly, the process to be followed, and what will be done with the results.

What's New...

Teach Kids Self-Protection Skills!

Research shows that child molesters use the same methods time after time, so the more kids know about how molesters operate, the safer they are.

Your Boundaries. Your Call!™ is the first comprehensive program designed to teach middle- and high-school youths:

- how to recognize their personal boundaries,
- how to respond if someone tries to violate their boundaries, and
- what to do if someone is sexually abusing them or someone they know.

Your Boundaries. Your Call!™ uses a three-part video series, structured activities, and guided group interaction to teach kids exactly what they need to know in a non-threatening manner.

Thousands of churches, schools, camps, YMCAs, and social services organizations across the nation are adding **Your Boundaries. Your Call!**™ to the services they provide to kids in their care. Now you can too! Call 800.743.6354.



Contact Praesidium before
August 1, 2006 for a
FREE PREVIEW!

Call 800.743.6354 **today.**
Quantities are limited.

Do you have a question you would like to ask an abuse prevention expert? We are starting a **Question & Answer Column** in the Safety Bulletin. To participate, simply e-mail your question to info@PraesidiumInc.com. We will select one or two questions from the submissions and answer them in upcoming issues. We look forward to hearing from you!

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About Praesidium

With two decades of experience, Praesidium is the national leader in abuse risk management. We offer a full range of risk management and loss control products and services to help you protect those in your care from abuse and to preserve trust in your organization. Visit www.PraesidiumInc.com or call 800.743.6354 for more information.

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