

SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION RESOURCES

PREVENTION TRAINING

Ministry Safe

www.ministrysafe.com (Gregory Love/Kimberlee Norris)

Darkness to Light

www.d2l.org (Carol Hogue)

Reducing the Risk

www.reducingtherisk.com (Richard Hammar)

PREVENTION RESOURCES

Abuse Prevention Checklist

<https://www.brotherhoodmutual.com/resources/safety-library/risk-management-forms/safeguarding-against-sexual-abuse-checklist>

Abuse Prevention Resources

<https://www.brotherhoodmutual.com/resources/safety-library/risk-management-articles/children-and-youth/abuse-prevention>

Protect: A Youth Worker's Guide to Navigating Risk

<https://youthministry360.com/products/protect-a-youth-workers-guide-to-navigating-risk>

Abuse Prevention Resources

www.churchmutual.com/169/Sexual-Abuse-Prevention

BACKGROUND SCREENING

ClearStar Background Checks

<https://www.tnbaptist.org/church-support/church-leadership-administration/employee-volunteer-background-screening-services>

LifeWay Background Checks

www.lifeway.com/en/shop/services/church-administration/background-checks/products-pricing.html

Church Mutual Background Checks

www.churchmutual.com/109/Background-Screening

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (<https://www.hhs.gov/>)

Administration for Children & Families (<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/>)

Children's Bureau (<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/>)

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State Statutes Search

Tennessee

Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect

To better understand this issue and to view it across States, download the PDF (</pubpdfs/manda.pdf>) (702 KB) of this publication.

Current Through April 2019

Professionals Required to Report

Citation: Ann. Code §§ 37-1-403; 37-1-605

Persons required to report include the following:

- Physicians, osteopaths, medical examiners, chiropractors, nurses, hospital personnel, or other health or mental health professionals
- Teachers, other school officials or personnel, or daycare center workers
- Other professional child care, foster care, residential, or institutional workers
- Social workers
- Practitioners who rely solely on spiritual means for healing
- Judges or law enforcement officers
- Neighbors, relatives, or friends
- Authority figures at community facilities, including any facility used for recreation or social assemblies or for educational, religious, social, health, or welfare purposes, including, but not limited to, facilities operated by schools, the Boy or Girl Scouts, the YMCA or YWCA, the Boys and Girls Club, or church or religious organizations
- Other persons

Reporting by Other Persons

Citation: Ann. Code §§ 37-1-403; 37-1-605

Any person who has knowledge that a child has been harmed by abuse or neglect must report.

Institutional Responsibility to Report

Citation: Ann. Code § 37-1-403

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any hospital, clinic, school, or other organization responsible for the care of children from developing a specific procedure for internally tracking, reporting, or otherwise monitoring a report made by a member of the organization's staff, including requiring a member of the organization's staff who

makes a report to provide a copy of or notice concerning the report to the organization, so long as the procedure does not inhibit, interfere with, or otherwise affect the duty of a person to make a report as required by law.

Nothing in this section shall prevent staff of a hospital or clinic from gathering sufficient information, as determined by the hospital or clinic, in order to make an appropriate medical diagnosis or to provide and document care that is medically indicated and is needed to determine whether to report an incident as defined in this part. Those activities shall not interfere with nor serve as a substitute for any investigation by law enforcement officials or the department. However, if any hospital, clinic, school, or other organization responsible for the care of children develops a procedure for internally tracking, reporting, or otherwise monitoring a report, the identity of the person who made a report of harm shall be kept confidential.

Standards for Making a Report

Citation: Ann. Code §§ 37-1-403; 37-1-605

A report is required when any of the following apply:

- A person has knowledge that a child has been harmed by abuse or neglect.
- A person is called upon to render aid to any child who is suffering from an injury that reasonably appears to have been caused by abuse.
- A person knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been sexually abused.
- A physician diagnoses or treats any sexually transmitted disease in a child age 13 or younger or diagnoses pregnancy in an unemancipated minor.

Any school official, personnel, employee, or member of the board of education who is aware of a report or investigation of employee misconduct on the part of any employee of the school system that in any way involves known or alleged child abuse, including, but not limited to, child physical or sexual abuse or neglect, shall immediately upon knowledge of such information notify the Department of Children's Services or law enforcement official of the abuse or alleged abuse.

Privileged Communications

Citation: Ann. Code § 37-1-411

The following privileges may not be claimed:

- Husband-wife
- Psychiatrist-patient or psychologist-patient

Inclusion of Reporter's Name in Report

Not addressed in statutes reviewed.

Disclosure of Reporter Identity

Citation: Ann. Code § 37-1-409

Except as may be ordered by the juvenile court, the name of any person reporting child abuse or neglect shall not be released to any person, other than employees of the department or other child protection team members responsible for child protective services, the abuse registry, or the appropriate district attorney general upon subpoena of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, without the written consent of the person reporting.

The reporter's identity shall be irrelevant to any civil proceeding and shall, therefore, not be subject to disclosure by order of any court. This shall not prohibit the issuance of a subpoena to a person reporting child abuse when deemed necessary by the district attorney general or the department to protect a child who is the subject of a report, provided that the fact that the person made the report is not disclosed.

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| [Administration for Children and Families \(https://www.acf.hhs.gov/\)](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/)
| [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. \(https://www.hhs.gov/\)](https://www.hhs.gov/)

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Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response Task Force Work

A. DEVELOPING EFFORTS IN THE AREA OF SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION

1. Review of Current TBMB Efforts Related to Sexual Abuse

- a. All TBMB staff have completed Sexual Abuse Training through Ministry Safe.
- b. TBMB Human Resources has negotiated discounted background screening rate for TBMB churches with ClearStar.
- c. TBMB Training provided directly to Tennessee Baptist church leaders since April 1, 2019
 - i. 166 Churches representing / 47 Associations
 - ii. 344 Total Attendance
 - iii. Training content included:
 1. Defining Sexual Abuse of Minors
 2. Recognizing Signs of Abuse
 3. Analyzing Risk Factors
 4. 12 Things a Church Can Do to Protect Minors
- d. Ongoing TBMB Efforts
 - i. On-Site Safety & Security Space Evaluations upon request
 - ii. Assisting churches in developing guidelines for Safety and Security Policies and Procedures
 - iii. Responding to calls from pastors/church staff after incidents of suspected sexual abuse

2. Assessment of Available Resources Outside TBMB – Resource links provided for churches

- a. **Ministry Safe** (Gregory Love/Kimberlee Norris) Comprehensive 5-Part Safety System
- b. **Protect** (Jody Dean and Dr. Allen Jackson) A Youth Worker's Guide to Navigation Risk
- c. **Reducing the Risk** (Richard Hammar, Church Law & Tax Report) A Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Program
- d. **Stewards of Children/Darkness to Light** (Carol Hogue) Training built off the foundation of The 5 Steps to Protecting Children
- e. **Insurance Company Resources/Sample Documents** (Brotherhood Mutual, Church Mutual)

3. Early Development of Potential Recommendations Related to:

- a. Strong Website Presence related to Sexual Abuse – Resources lists, Training dates
- b. Possible Regional Sexual Abuse Training
- c. Possible State Training Tour in coordination with Ministry Safe or other organization
- d. Possible Financial Assistance for TBMB church staff members for specialized training related to sexual abuse and the church

SUMMARY

Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response Task Force Work

B. DEVELOPING EFFORTS IN THE AREA OF SEXUAL ABUSE RESPONSE ***Items to be Provided Directly to Tennessee Baptist Churches***

- a. **Sexual Abuse Allegation Response Plan for Church Leaders**– Planning outline for churches to adopt before a situation arises, including church policies for preparation
- b. **Sexual Abuse Allegation Response Resource List for Church Leaders** – Multiple resources, phone numbers, web sites to which churches may turn either to do due diligence or to most effectively respond in a crisis
- c. **Sexual Abuse Allegation Response Terms List for Church Leaders**– Terms defined for church leaders and useful in corresponding with law enforcement and child protective services
- d. **Sexual Abuse Allegation Response Checklist for Churches** – Readily available checklist for responding with compassion and appropriateness in the event of an alleged abuse