

Child/Youth Protection Policy FAQs

Why do we need to be trained in CYPP?

Child and Youth Protection Policies are adopted by each church for the protection of children and youth, who are participating in various activities within the life of the church. The CYPP sets forth guidelines for maintaining proper supervision when working with children and youth, obtaining background checks, and reporting any suspicious activity/abuse as necessary.

Who needs to be trained in CYPP?

The IOF CYPP requires that all church personnel who regularly work with the children/youth shall comply with the **Screening and Selection Requirements** prior to beginning their regular involvement with children/youth. Definitions for who is included in that group are outlined in the policy documents. (Such as, but not limited to, paid church staff and adult volunteers)

Do I need to pay for this training?

No. The church is going to pay for the background checks and screenings needed.

How often do I need to repeat the training?

You need to attend training once a year to review updates and information about the CYPP. Background checks need to be redone every 3 years.

What if I did this training last year?

You will need to attend training and complete documentation that you have reviewed the policy annually. If it has been 3 years since your background check, you will need to redo that as well.

What do I do if I suspect child abuse or neglect?

Florida Statute 39.201, entitled "Mandatory Reports" states that: *"Any person who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare, as defined in this chapter, ... shall report such knowledge or suspicion to the department"*

While the statute is limited to situations involving abuse by a parent, custodian, caregiver or other persons responsible for a child's welfare, the moral imperative to protect children extends to other situations where abuse is suspected. Suspected abuse within the context of a church day school or pre-school does fall within the description of the Florida Statute and a report is required.

Clearly, when child abuse is suspected or observed, the moral imperative, and potentially the legal requirement, is to call the Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-96 ABUSE (1-800-962-2873).

With the guidance of your church clergy (unless the clergy is the accused), come up with an immediate plan to make sure that the accused individual is relieved of his or her duties where alleged abuse was taking place. If it is suspected that church clergy is the accused, the District Superintendent should be contacted for guidance. Do not investigate further into the situation, allow local law enforcement entities to do their job.