



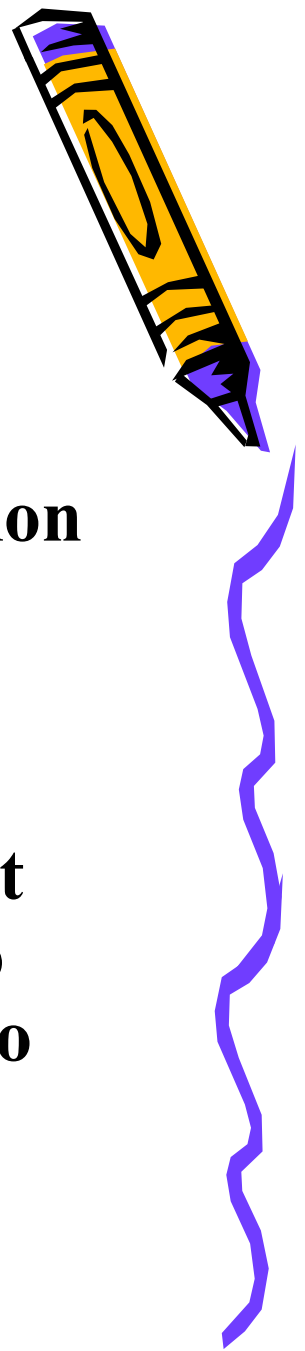
Mason Dixon Scholarship Camp

Child Protection Training



A Little Perspective

- **This session has been developed to help inform/remind us about reducing the risk of abuse for children and youth at camp.**
- **If we did not live in a fallen world this discussion would not be necessary.**
- **Christian youth camps are not immune from worldly influences.**
- **Our Child Protection Policy is a statement that we value children and youth and are willing to undergo some extra work and inconvenience to help ensure their safety.**



This is Our World

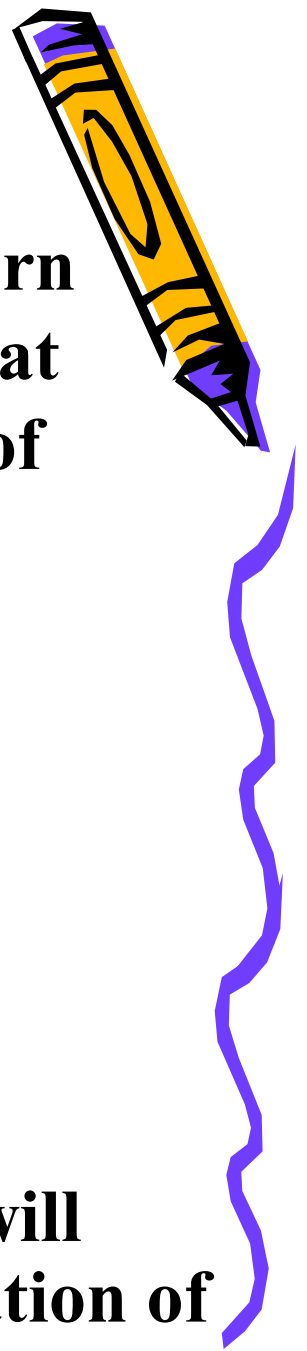
- Since the first case of sexual abuse was filed against a church in 1984 hundreds more have been filed.
- On average, molesters have more than 60 victims.
- The estimated number of sexually abused children rose from 133,600 in 1986 to 300,200 in 1993.
- One of three women and one of seven men had experienced child sexual victimization.
- Problem is across all ethnic, socio-economic, and religious groups.

- Only 5% of cases reported

Victim guilt; protecting others, afraid



Motivations Behind This Policy



- **First**, recognizing God's tender love and concern for children (Luke 18:16), we want to do all that we can to protect our children from any kind of physical or sexual abuse.
- **Second**, we want to protect our youth workers from being suspected or falsely accused of wrongful behavior toward a child.
- **Third**, we want to protect our camp from the scandal and trauma that an incident of abuse could bring upon our congregation.
- **Finally**, we believe that this policy will help us to guard the honor and reputation of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Legal Requirements

- **PA Act 15 of 2015: CPSL Amendments**
- <http://www.pa-fsa.org/Portals/0/Docs/Mandated-Reporters/Updated%20ChildProtective%20Services%20Law%202.pdf>
- **Covers:** All adult volunteers with “direct volunteer contact” or who are responsible for the child’s welfare.
- Requires criminal and sex offender checks
- Requires training on policy
- Requires Process for reporting



The Scope of the Child Protection Policy



This policy applies to all camp functions. Individual families must take individual responsibility for the protection of their family.

NOTE: Camp activities include instruction, supervision, reasonable discipline and shelter that is provided by the camp staff at the camp location.



Policy for all Camp Workers

- **All workers, including counselors, kitchen staff, maintenance and administration, with regular direct access to minors complete criminal and sex offender background checks.**
- **Camp Board approves any first-time volunteers**
- **Each Volunteer must complete training each year**
- **In 2016, this slide show and a quiz to complete.**

- **Workers with criminal child abuse violations will not be accepted.**

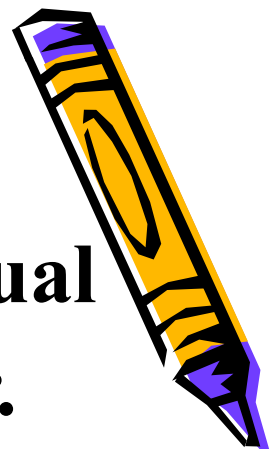


Abuse Definitions

- **Sexual Abuse: Any interaction for sexual gratification between staff and camper.**
- **Physical Abuse: Intentional act to try to harm a camper.**
- **Emotional Abuse: Emotional pain.**

2 million per year.

3000-5000 resulting in death



Safe Conduct at Camp

- **Whenever practicable two workers should be present during any camp activity. An individual worker should never be alone in any room with a camper.**
- **Any 1-on-1 counseling in a public area where others can watch.**
- **Workers will never verbally abuse, physically discipline, or restrain a camper unless in a case of self protection or where physical violence exists.**



Safe Conduct at Camp

- **The mere touching of a camper can be considered offensive. The workers will avoid any physical contact with a camper that could be interpreted as sexual misconduct.**
- **Campers are not permitted to sit on any worker's lap.**
- **Workers will not build significant personal relationships with any campers.**



Safe Conduct at Camp

- **Workers will strive to point campers to their team leaders of the same sex.**
- **Workers will not let a student drive or ride any camp vehicle**
- **Camper information is confidential.**
- **Workers will not use racial, vulgar, or sexual humor.**



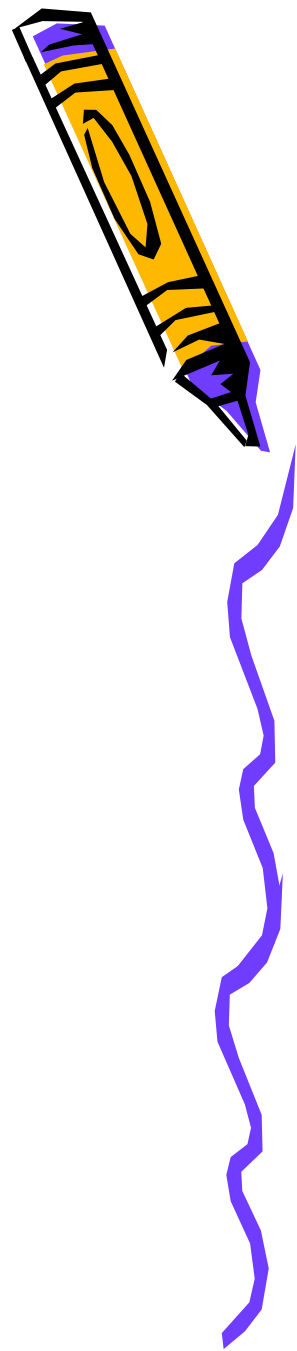
Safe Conduct at Camp

- **No physical discipline; corporal punishment.**
- **No roughhousing, wrestling, buttslapping, tickling, lying beside, massages**
- **No touching areas covered by a swimsuit**
- **All hugs side-to-side, especially opposite sex.**
- **Ensure privacy for changing clothing, etc.**



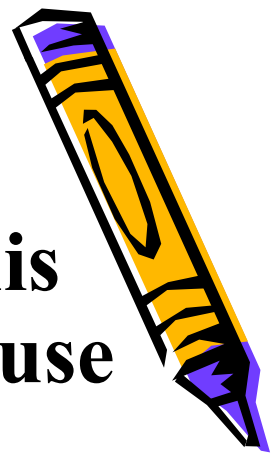
Safe Conduct at Camp

- **At the end of camp, the administrative staff will inform the parents about any significant issues arising at camp. Remember the children are the responsibility of their parents.**



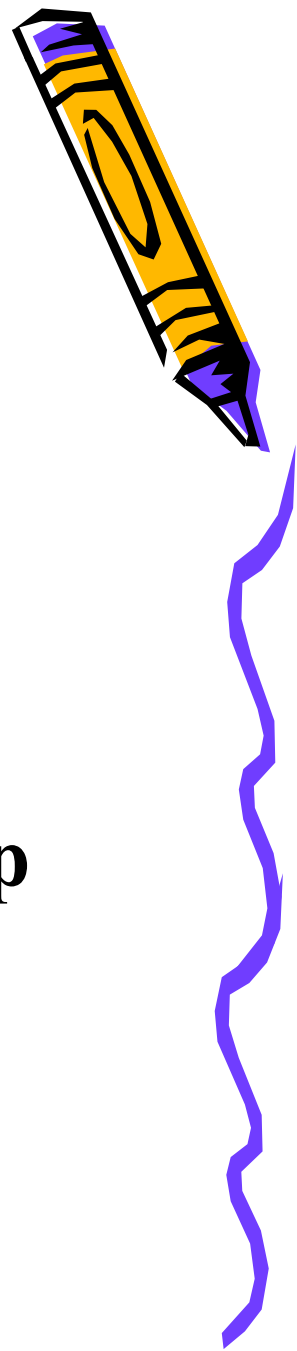
Reporting Procedures

- Each year, all camp staff will review this or another presentation about child abuse and safety.
- Any suspected abuse should be reported directly to the Camp Director.
- Camp Director along with Camp Board present at camp will review the initial evidence and determine if authorities must be brought in.
- Camp Director will report to PA authorities if warranted and records kept.



Responding to Allegations of Abuse

- **All allegations must be taken seriously**
- **All situations will be handled with due respect for people's privacy and confidentiality.**
- **In any situation, remove the child from risk first, and then report it to the camp director immediately.**
- **Parents will be notified immediately.**

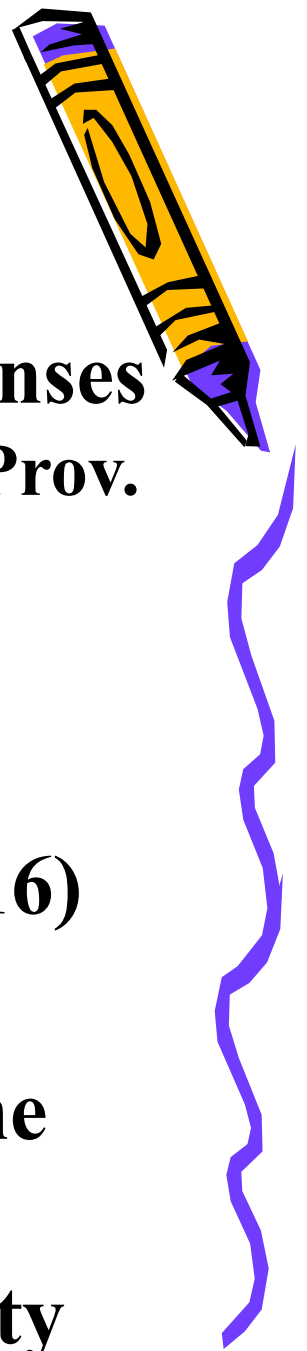


Responding to Allegations of Abuse

- **If further evaluation is necessary the state agency that receives reports will be anonymously contacted to help evaluate whether or not a report should be filed.**
- **The camp may secure legal counsel before any report is given to the media.**
- **Any criminal action that is discovered will be reported to the proper authorities.**



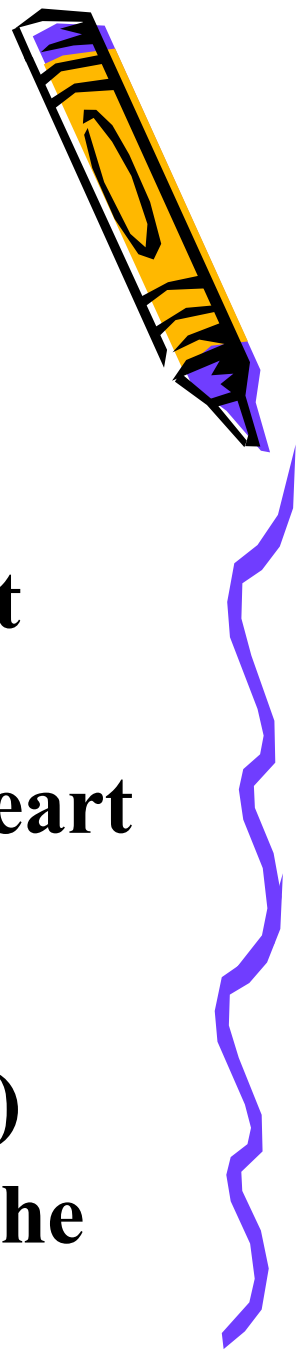
Biblical Pattern for Confronting Sin



- **Overlook minor offenses against you.**
 - This does not necessarily apply to offenses against others, particularly children (Prov. 19:11)
- **Talk in private (Matt 18:15)**
 - Spirit of humility (Galatians 6:1, 2)
- **Take one or two others along. (Matt 18:16)**
 - Key verb: “if he will not listen”
 - First, try mutual agreement on who the
- **Expand the circle of accountability**



Biblical Pattern for Confronting Sin



- **Tell it to the Church (Matt 18:17)**
 - Not a public announcement
 - “Who does this affect?”
- **Treat the person as an unbeliever (Matt 18:17-20)**
 - “As” is a functional decision, not a heart decision.
 - Treat the offender like Jesus treated sinners. (Gentleness and respect.)
 - Love them enough to tell them the truth

