



Student Ministry Child Protection Policy

Purpose

Our goal is to make sure we uphold the integrity of security and safety within Student Ministry to the highest level. We want to create an environment where adults feel confident in dropping off and picking up their students and where students feel safe to be in the space. We want to ensure accountability and protection for our volunteers by setting safeguards to eliminate any environments that accusations or situations can arise. To best safeguard our Student Ministry environments, we practice the following child protection policies:

Rule of Three

- At no time, should a volunteer ever be alone with a student in or outside a Student Ministry environment. This is to protect all students from physical and sexual harm and to protect volunteers from false accusation.

Physical Contact

- Adults should avoid initiating physical at all costs. Within ministry, situations arise where physical contact is inevitable (hugs, holding hands while praying). We ask adults to use wisdom when physical contact occurs.
- If a volunteer happens to witness inappropriate touching or questionable behavior by other staff, volunteers, or other students then the volunteer should promptly intervene as appropriate and must report such instances to the Student Pastor or other Eagle Brook staff.

Communication

- Communication via email, social media, or text messaging is encouraged for our volunteers with their students. We request that all written communication, especially that with only the student and volunteer, remain intact and ask that the leader never delete any history of interaction with the students from their phones or accounts. This protects both parties against any possible allegations.
- Communication between volunteers and students of the opposite sex should not be a private but should follow the “rule of 3” guideline and steer towards group chat rather than private messaging.
- There is not a firm rule on what topics to engage in with the students, but volunteers are expected to keep conversations focused on what we are talking about in Student Ministries or basic, light topics. The volunteers are required to report/discuss all conversations to the Student Pastor should they feel that delicate topics are starting to be addressed, especially in a one-on-one conversation.