

SouthSide Child Protection Policy

Revision: February 2010

First and foremost, SouthSide Youth Outreach and SouthSide Community Church (SSCC) needs to be a place of safety and refuge from this world's ills. This Child Protection Policy is needed to help achieve this goal.

We have a responsibility to the children both while they are attending SouthSide activities as well as to evaluate and respond appropriately to the children reporting possible incidents away from SouthSide. This is an undesirable topic for all involved, but addressing this in a way to ensure safety for all is a must.

There are four aspects of the SSCC Child Protection Policy:

- 1) Selection and Screening
- 2) Supervision
- 3) The Reporting Process
- 4) A Response Plan

Selection and Screening

To work with children or around children in either organization a person will need to complete a written application, attend an interview and review the SouthSide Youth Outreach VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION MANUAL to ensure understanding and compliance with all aspects of SouthSide policies, standards and expectations.

Supervision

The key to safety for all is the Two-Staff Rule. At all times two staff members will be present (in line of sight) with the children or child. At no time should a staff person be alone with a child. All children are to be kept in the group situation unless there is a specific need for them to leave the group, such as going to the bathroom or for the purpose of removing a disruptive or sick child. If a child needs to go home because of behavior or sickness, two staff members will accompany that child to their doorstep and inform the parent/guardian why the child is being brought home.

Reporting Process

If an incident occurs or if a child reports something that has happened outside of SSCC/SSYO ministries, it must be immediately reported to Steve or Tena Kimmell, or the Person In-Charge if Steve and Tena are not available. The incident will be documented and reported to the proper authorities per federal law.

Response Plan

In response to an allegation SouthSide will immediately comply with the state child abuse process and will document all measures taken. We will cooperate with the proper authorities in any way we can during their investigation. We will be extremely sensitive to the victim as well as to the alleged perpetrator during the investigation and aftermath. We will prayerfully and carefully consider how and when to bring the situation to the surface, including making it known to the congregation, and we will be ready to respond to the media, if needed.

Conclusion

Again, it is the desire and foremost aim of SouthSide Youth Outreach, Inc and SouthSide Community Church to create a safe haven for both children and adults as we work to build strong lives everyday. We will do everything in our power to make sure no harm comes to any of the people involved in SouthSide activities.