

Abbreviated Guidelines Regarding Child Abuse

--Last Guidelines were established in 2006

--Updated Guidelines enacted in 2020

--All of Georgia's laws and explanations pertaining to child abuse can be found in Georgia Code Section 19-7-5.

--There are a number of professions that require mandated reporting of child abuse.

--However, **anyone** can make a child abuse report.

--Ga. Law does not require mandated reporters to make the report themselves, but to have a designated reporter within their organization to make the call. This is the protocol Alleluia prefers to follow (but again, **anyone** can make the call).

--Information that does raise a reasonable suspicion of abuse or neglect must be acted upon **promptly, seriously, discretely and with confidentiality.**

--In Alleluia, the designated reporters will be the following: if it involves a child report at school or school sponsored activity/ sporting event, the designated reporter will be the **school superintendent**. If the incident occurs or is revealed during a youth development activity, the designated reporter is the **head of youth development**. If it involves abuse or neglect within or between families, the designated reporter is the **Pastoral Coordinator**.

--These guidelines distinguish between physical abuse/neglect and sexual abuse.

--While investigation of child abuse is going on, the person accused will be removed from any service to children and youth, and if in leadership—removed from acting in that position.

--If a charge is not substantiated, community leadership will take steps to restore the good name of a person who may have been harmed by the unsubstantiated charges.

--In the case of confirmed physical child abuse or neglect (not sexual abuse), assuming the brother or sister has appropriately repented of his/her actions, the community leadership will bar that person from community leadership, youth ministry/teaching, etc. for an undetermined time. However, they may be allowed to remain in community.

--in the case of sexual abuse, all the above would apply, except that if confirmed, the perpetrator will be dropped from their covenant, underway or associate status. And this sexual perpetrator (whether community member or non-community member) will be excluded from Alleluia sponsored public functions, including SG meetings.

--The perpetrator will be informed of this in writing by the **overall coordinator** or his designee.

--If by chance the offender were to show up to a community function, the person in charge of the function will ask them to leave.

--these new guidelines do not cover, nor attempt to cover our nearly 50-year history. These new guidelines will begin when it is officially enacted and the whole community is informed of the protocol.

--**Please Note:** This is an abbreviated version of our new Pastoral Protocol and Guidelines. A more detailed version which includes such items as: who is a mandated reporter, quotes from the Ga. Law, examples of abuse and neglect, the process of notifying authorities, etc., is available at the Alleluia Office upon request.