

South Baton Rouge Church of Christ

# Child Safety Policy

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# South Baton Rouge Church of Christ Child Safety Policy

**PURPOSE:** It is the purpose and intent of South Baton Rouge Church of Christ (SBRCC) to provide a physically, emotionally, and spiritually safe, secure environment to teach and care for people, especially Children and Youth. Jesus Christ is deeply concerned for the well being of all people and has a special concern for those who are most vulnerable, particularly children. Certainly, Jesus would be against abuse. With Him as our Lord and our example for holiness, we must have the same perspective. In addition, our community largely expects us to live up to our beliefs even though many may have no regard for those beliefs. At the very least, those in our community expect us to obey our laws. Abuse is not only a betrayal of our Lord, but also an ethical violation of the ministerial, pastoral, or professional relationship. In many instances, abuse is likewise a violation of law. Because we live in a fallen world and because Christians are not immune to sin, we must say that abuse is never permissible or acceptable and will not be tolerated. The laws of our state must be respected, but we are also fully aware that Jesus holds us to an even higher standard of behavior.

**SCOPE:** Our goals are: (1) prevention of abuse (2) protection from abuse (3) training to recognize and address abuse (4) spiritual healing from abuse for the victim and family and (5) protection of employees and volunteers from false accusations. The policies of SBRCC apply to all employees and volunteers as defined in the *SBRCC Child Safety Procedures*, particularly, but not limited to, those working directly with the activities of Children and Youth.

Child abuse is a crime, and the South Baton Rouge Church of Christ, at a minimum, intends to adhere to the abuse laws of the State of Louisiana.

## Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect

### 1. Physical Abuse

**Citation: Ch. Code art. 603**

*Abuse* means any one of the following acts that seriously endanger the physical, mental, or emotional health and safety of the child:

The infliction, attempted infliction, or, as a result of inadequate supervision, the allowance of the infliction or attempted infliction of physical or mental injury upon the child by a parent or any other person

The exploitation or overwork of a child by a parent or any other person

*Crime against the child* includes homicide, battery, assault, kidnapping, or cruelty to juveniles

2. **Neglect**

**Citation: Ch. Code art. 603**

*Neglect* means the refusal or unreasonable failure of a parent or caretaker to supply the child with necessary food, clothing, shelter, care, treatment, or counseling for any injury, illness, or condition of the child, as a result of which the child's physical, mental, or emotional health and safety is substantially threatened or impaired. Neglect includes prenatal neglect.

*Prenatal neglect* means the unlawful use of a controlled dangerous substance by a mother during pregnancy that results in symptoms of withdrawal in the infant or the presence of a controlled substance in the infant's body.

3. **Sexual Abuse**

**Citation: Ch. Code art. 603**

*Abuse* includes any one of the following acts that seriously endanger the physical, mental, or emotional health of the child:

The involvement of the child in any sexual act with a parent or any other person

The aiding or toleration by the parent or caretaker of the child's sexual involvement with any other person

The aiding or toleration by the parent of the child's involvement in pornographic displays

Any other involvement of a child in sexual activity constituting a crime under the laws of the State

*Child pornography* means visual depiction of a child engaged in actual or simulated sexual intercourse, deviate sexual intercourse, sexual bestiality, masturbation, sadomasochistic abuse, or lewd exhibition of the genitals.

Crime against a child includes rape, sexual battery, incest, carnal knowledge of a juvenile, indecent behavior with a juvenile, pornography involving juveniles, or molestation of a juvenile.

4. **Emotional Abuse**

**Citation: Ch. Code art. 603**

Abuse includes any act that seriously endangers the mental or emotional health of the child or inflicts mental injury.

5. **Abandonment**

**Citation: Ch. Code art. 603**

Crime against the child includes criminal abandonment of a child.

SBRCC expects that all employees and volunteers subject to this policy adhere to *SBRCC Child Safety Policy* and comply with *SBRCC Child Safety Procedures*. Failure to comply with *SBRCC Child Safety Policy and Procedures* could result in disciplinary action.