

POLICY #6  
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

These guidelines do not restrict anyone from worshiping in this church. They exist to protect the children of the church as well as the adults.

1. All children's ministries will be open to observation by parents.
2. No adult worker shall be alone or hidden from view with children on church grounds or during church activities.
3. All nursery workers must be of legal age (18) and mentally competent to care for minor children. Nursery teams shall be composed of either, one man and one woman, as a married couple, or two women.
4. Nursery is for children ages birth through four years. Once a child turns five they move up to Children's Church, regardless of whether or not they are in kindergarten.
5. Final release of children from any church program will be to parents, legal guardians or to a legal adult duly designated by such in writing to church staff. (rev. 12/2020)
6. Children's Church is for children age five through nine, once a child turns ten, regardless of school grade, they will then need to be in services with their parents.
7. Children's Church teams must be comprised of at least three persons, either three adults or two adults and one minor, age 13 or older. Minors must have passed child safety training. They may run games and help with snacks but are not permitted to teach. The Children's Church Director will consult with the elder over Christian Education to confirm the minor is known and of good reputation, and has been serving in other board-approved children's ministries, such as Awana or VBS, and is approved for service. If the minor is new to our church, and whose reputation and ministry activity is unknown, then the elder over Christian Education will take the matter before the board for approval.
8. Sunday School teachers of minor children are to maintain oversight of their pupils until released to their parents, guardians, Children's Church or nursery staff.
9. During functions of the church that are not specifically children's ministries, such as potlucks, picnics, etc. parents are responsible for the supervision of their own child/ children.
  - a. During congregational business meetings, if the church provides child care, children may either participate or sit in the meeting with their parents.
  - b. During congregational business meeting where child care is not provided, should parents elect not to arrange child care off-grounds, children are to sit with parents in the meeting.
10. Any person with child abuse convictions shall be subject to the following:
  - a. No involvement in any Sunday School class other than an adult Sunday School class.
  - b. No involvement in any children's or youth ministries or any special yearly program or Vacation Bible School.
  - c. Will not have any keys to church property.

- d. Will abstain from anything that will bring suspicion upon him or her self or the church, such as photographing children on church property or at any church functions.
- e. Will not speak about the restrictions placed on him/her by the court in front of any children of the church.
- f. Will not pick up, hold or hug any child within the church, on its grounds or at any church activity.
- g. Will not be allowed in the church alone.
- h. Will not serve in any position of leadership in the church.

***Any violation of these guidelines will be promptly reported to the Pastor, who will immediately report them to the Lassen County District Attorney's and Sheriff's offices, and a restraining order may be obtained.***

11. All persons wishing to work with children must read and sign a copy of POLICY #6. In order to remain qualified to work with children, volunteers must complete annual child safety training.

12. All persons wishing to work with children must comply with current child safety processes, such as fingerprinting and/or background check, and be subject to approval by the Official Board before they may begin serving.

13. Oversight of items 7 & 8 of POLICY #6 shall be the responsibility of an appointed member of the Official Board.

14. New child care workers must attend a child safety class. Renewing child care workers may complete training by handout or online.

By signing below, I affirm I have read, understand and agree to abide by the foregoing Policy #6 of the Standish Bible Church.

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Printed Name

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Signature

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Date