

Safe Sanctuaries

A Holy Place

Matthew 18:1-2a

...the disciples came to Jesus asking, "Who gets the highest rank in God's kingdom?"

Jesus called over a child, whom he stood in the middle of the room and...

Matthew 18: 2-5

Jesus said: "Whoever becomes simple and elemental again, like this child, will rank high in God's kingdom. What's more, when you receive the childlike on my account, it's the same as receiving me."

Matthew 18:6-7a, 10a

"But if you give them a hard time, bullying or taking advantage of their simple trust, you'll soon wish you hadn't. You'd be better off dropped in the middle of the lake with a millstone around your neck.

Watch that you don't treat a single one of these childlike believers arrogantly."

-The Message by Eugene Peterson

Safe Sanctuaries

Training

- Conference/district/local ministry groups responsible for providing
- Training includes
 - Avoiding situations of potential abuse or conduct perceived as abusive
 - Specifically Oakton's policies
 - Recognizing signs of abuse
 - Requirements to report abuse

keeping our children, youth and vulnerable adults safe . . .

Safe Sanctuaries

Definitions

- **Physical abuse:** deliberate act that inflicts bodily harm
- **Sexual abuse:** sexual contact or sexually explicit language, gestures or images directed to participant
- **Neglect:** failure to provide nutrition, medical, surgical or other necessary care

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The Problem

National statistics

- Approximately **906,000** children are victims of abuse and neglect every year
- 1,500 children die every year from child abuse and neglect

-Administration for Children and Families of the US Department of Health and Human Services
Child Maltreatment Report 2005

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The national problem

Safe Sanctuaries

- Abused children are
 - 25% more likely to experience teen pregnancy
 - 59% more likely to be arrested as a juvenile
 - 28% more likely to be arrested as an adult
 - 30% more likely to commit violent crime

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Safe Sanctuaries

Missouri registered sex offenders

- More than 10,000 people living in Missouri are registered with the Highway Patrol as sex offenders
- Names are posted on the Internet by name, county and zip code

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About churches

- One in 100 churches surveyed in the US had at least one allegation of abuse each year
- Twenty-eight percent of those allegations were paid staff or clergy; 29% were adult volunteers; the remainder were "someone else"

According to a survey of 900 churches by the Christian Ministry Resources in North Carolina in 2004

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About churches

Some child sexual abuse cases against churches have resulted in judgments of more than \$75 million.

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Safe Sanctuaries

Who is the perpetrator?

- Most common alleged perpetrator was the **natural parent of the child**
- Second most common type of alleged perpetrator was the **step-parent or the parent's lover**
- Most substantiated perpetrators are **known by the child**

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Good touch vs. bad touch

- The location on the body: not intimate
- The duration or intensity: not prolonged
- Relationship to each other: long-time friends, equal power, same gender
- Who initiates: child or youth



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Good touch vs. bad touch

- Motivation: for comfort, God's love or own pleasure
- Cultural heritage: different cultures have different traditions
- Age of a child: rocking a toddler is appropriate, while rocking an older child is not



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Good touches...you can...



Shake hands



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Good touches...you can...



Lightly touch a shoulder or one hand



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Good touches...you can...



Lightly hold a hand, as in a "therapeutic touch"



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Good touches...you can...



Give a "high five"



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Safe Sanctuaries

Good touches...you can...

Give an
A-frame
hug



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Good touches...you can...

Give a sideways hug



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