

Protecting the Most Vulnerable in Your Church



Abuse of any kind grieves the heart of God. When abuse strikes the local church, it does great damage to Christ's name, His mission to redeem the world, and His people's ability to credibly share the gospel. Every Christian should feel the pain of Jesus when those who often seem the least among us – those whose angels behold the face of God – become objects of ridicule, violence, or wrongful pleasure.

This realization should do more than distress us. It should stir us to righteous anger and move us to action. Specifically, the very possibility of abuse in our churches teaches us we must:

1. **Prevent abuse.** Every local church member should be trained to identify and report abuse.
2. **Report abuse.** Every person who has a reason to believe abuse is happening should speak up.
3. **Target abuse.** Every church should have clear policies that protect against the likelihood of abuse and require the immediate report of any suspected abuse.
4. **Love the abused and the abuser.** For both, some scars may last a lifetime, but the redeeming love of Christ – who suffered the ultimate abuse for our sins – is sufficient to redeem even the deepest pains.

While we know there are distinct spheres of responsibility among our churches and denominational entities, Missouri Baptists are united in our desire to prevent abuse, protect the vulnerable, and respond appropriately to victims of abuse in our churches.

Please see side two for ways you can take action now.

Take Action Now

Contact one of these MBC-approved ministries to educate and equip your people.

Stewards of Children

The Missouri Baptist Children's Home offers "Stewards of Children," a two-hour training that features video of survivors of sexual abuse and an interactive workbook.



Led by a Children's Home specialist, this training gives people the skills to create safer environments, and it helps them become more willing to intervene in unsafe behaviors by adults with children.

To learn more or schedule a workshop, visit mbch.org or contact David Burch at david.burch@mbch.org.

MinistrySafe



This five-part safety system focuses on protecting children from the devastating consequences of sexual abuse. It includes: sexual abuse awareness training; skillful screening; appropriate criminal background checks; tailored policies and procedures; and monitoring and oversight.

Lead your church through this free video-driven Church Safety Workshop at ministrysafe.com/mbc.

Caring Well, an SBC Initiative



The American church is facing an abuse crisis. Is your church doing all it can to be safe for survivors and safe from abuse?

Churches should be a refuge for those who have experienced abuse. Too often, however, survivors haven't found the protection they deserve and the care they need from the church.

Are you ready to join us in changing that? Learn more and take the Caring Well Challenge at caringwell.com.

Read a message from MBC Executive Director John Yeats at mobaptist.org/church-benefits/church-protection.