

UU Church of Medford Safety Policy

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Purpose and Scope of this Policy

Statement of purpose: The Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford wants our church to be a place of physical, spiritual and emotional safety for all members and friends. We recognize the limitation of our resources, monetary and membership and pledge to work within those resources to achieve this goal of safety. We will follow all statutes regarding our responsibilities.

Scope: This document is an outline of policies and procedures regarding the above purpose.

Abuse Prevention

The Religious Education program of the UU Church of Medford has instituted the following policies regarding the prevention and response to child abuse:

1. We check references for all paid staff, including clergy, who have contact with minors.
2. We check references for all volunteers who will work with minors.
3. We conduct criminal background checks through the Massachusetts Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) program of all paid staff and volunteers who work with minors.
4. We train all volunteers and paid staff who work with children to:
 - a. Understand the nature of child abuse and methods of abuse prevention
 - b. Carry out our policies to prevent child abuse
5. We have a reporting procedure for a suspected incident of child abuse that follows the requirements of our state law.
6. We have insurance coverage available in case a child abuse complaint occurs.
7. We have a defined response plan to be implemented in case an allegation of child abuse is made against someone in our organization.

The Director of Religious Education maintains a manual for procedures, response plans and reproducible forms required for activities in the RE program in keeping with this policy.

Policies and Procedures to be included:

Child Abuse Reporting Procedure

CORI Acknowledgement Form

Limited Access Agreement

The Safe Congregation Task Force is responsible for handling any incidents of alleged child abuse, including supervision of a person subject to any limited access agreement. The Task Force shall report the existence of any abuse accusations to the Board Chair and shall provide updates as necessary.