

# **Risk Assessments for Church led Activities**



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***Model Church Safeguarding Policy 2021***

# Risk Assessments for Church lead Activities

## Introduction

In the model Church Safeguarding Policy (July 2021), under **Good Practise**, the following point is made:

*Activity risk assessments will be undertaken before any activity takes place to minimise the risk of harm to those involved. Approval will be obtained from the event leader/minister. A written record of the assessment will be retained securely.*

Further into the policy specific expectations are stated in regards to 'Events with church groups off the premises':

*Adequate staffing, a risk assessment and notification of the event will be given to the church safeguarding officer PRIOR to the agreement for any event or off site activity. Notification of the event will be given to the church council secretary:.....(name of church council secretary).*

*If the activity is unusual or considered to be high risk the church safeguarding officer will contact the circuit safeguarding officer in order that it can be ratified or any queries raised.*

## **What to include in an Activity Risk Assessment?**

*Taken from Safeguarding Policy, procedures and Guidance for the Methodist Church, July 2021 (SPP & G, July21):*

While the Church recognises that it is not possible to avoid all risk when working with vulnerable groups, it is possible to try and minimise those risks. This can be achieved through careful planning and preparation and by providing a written record of the thought processes and action taken.

Activity risk assessments should be undertaken before any activity takes place, approved by the event leader/minister and retained securely in case they need to be seen at a later date (e.g. as a result of an accident taking place).

Activity Risk Assessment should include:

- The nature of the activity
- The location
- Transport needed and associated issues (e.g. insurance)
- Staffing levels / gender
- Experience of staff
- Age of the group attending, special needs
- Medical and health needs of the group
- Emergency planning
- Risks
- Action needed to address the risk
- A named person for resolving risk issues.

Detailed information on each of the above criteria can be found in the Safeguarding Policy, procedures and Guidance for the Methodist Church, July 2021, on pages 82 - 94, under the heading **Code of safer Working Practice with Children and Young People** or on pages 94 & 95 under the title **Code of safer working practice with Adults**

### **Additional Information**

The **Code of Safer Working Practice with Children and Young People** (page 82 in SPP & G, July 21) and **Health and Safety** (page 103) set out legal expectations and will help when completing the Risk Assessment.

Also, on page 97, you will find information about taking **Photographs and Video Recordings**:

Photography and video recording are important ways of recording Methodist activity and providing a record – illustrating and validating important moments in people’s lives and the life of our Church. It is, however, a powerful and personal process, and we must respect the rights of everyone to choose whether or not to be photographed.

