

What to do if you have concerns about possible abuse

1. Consult the person to whom you are responsible.
2. Decide together whether to seek advice or to make an immediate referral.
3. Keep a record of what happened, your concerns and your actions.
4. Tell your minister and/or safeguarding representative.
5. Only tell others who need to know.

In an emergency respond immediately.

Responding to a child, young person, parent or other adult who shares with you about abuse

1. Never promise to keep a secret.
2. React calmly; be aware of your non-verbal messages.
3. Don't stop someone who is talking freely about what has happened.

4. Don't ask leading questions.
5. Reassure the person they have done the right thing by telling you.
6. Avoid making comments or judgements.
7. Tell the person what will happen next.
8. Record using the person's own words and noting any important dates and times.
9. Report to the person to whom you are responsible, your minister and/or safeguarding representative

Remember good practice

- ◆ Treat everyone with respect, setting a positive example.
- ◆ Respect other people's personal space.
- ◆ Ensure your actions cannot be misinterpreted.
- ◆ Challenge unacceptable behaviour in a constructive way.
- ◆ Do not put yourself or other people in vulnerable situations.
- ◆ Do not have inappropriate physical contact with others.
- ◆ Always share safeguarding concerns.

Resources

Safeguarding information and resources

See the Safeguarding pages on:
www.methodist.org.uk/safeguarding

www.nspcc.org.uk

Many useful resources, including research studies and fact sheets
Tel: 0808 800 5000

www.stopitnow.org.uk

A Freephone confidential helpline for people with concerns about child sexual abuse, which gives advice, support and information
Tel: 0800 1000 900

Nationaldahelpline.org.uk

Freephone, 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline
Tel: 0800 2000 247

www.wearehourglass.org

Formerly Action on Elder Abuse
24-hour helpline
Tel:0808 808 8141

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The person to whom you are responsible

Your Minister

Church or Circuit Safeguarding Representative

District Safeguarding Officer

Local Social Care Out of Hours Services

NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 500

In an emergency phone 999

More information, advice and support on Safeguarding, good practice, safer recruitment, training etc is available in each Methodist district.

See also the Safeguarding pages on www.methodist.org.uk

Director of Safeguarding:

Tim Carter, ,
Tel: 020 7467 5110

Methodist Safeguarding enquiries:

Email: safeguarding@methodistchurch.org.uk



The Methodist Church

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SAFEGUARDING



A quick reference guide for those working within the Methodist Church

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