



# SAFEGUARDING ABUSE POLICY:

## Our Commitment:

Victory Church is committed to creating a safe, healthy, and Christ-centered environment for every person who enters our church community. Safeguarding is not simply a policy — it is part of our mission to reflect the heart of Jesus by protecting the vulnerable, maintaining healthy boundaries, and responding appropriately to concerns. Safety is everyone's responsibility.

## The purpose of the abuse policy is to:

- Prevent abuse, harassment, grooming, and boundary violations
- Establish healthy ministry boundaries and best practices
- Equip staff and volunteers to recognize and respond appropriately to concerns
- Provide safe reporting pathways
- Support survivors with compassion and care
- Ensure accountability and transparency within the church

When there is a concern about a person, interaction, or situation, please reach out to our Safeguarding Team. The goal of our Safeguarding Team is to help us live out our policy and be the community that loves our neighbors as ourselves. In addition to responding to any policy violations or concerns, our Safeguarding Team will promote training and clarity regarding our policy.

**The core purpose of the policy is to create a church environment that is safe, transparent, accountable, and protective of the vulnerable.**

## Here are some of the highlights from the full policy:

- 1** Healthy boundaries protect everyone. ( i.e.- show respect in physical touch, space and visibility, careful digital communication; one on one meetings in visible, public space)
- 2** Everyone should feel empowered to report concerns. If something feels off, say something. Safety is everyone's responsibility.
- 3** No one should be alone with a minor when they are not the parent or guardian.
- 4** Use words that show respect, never words that threaten, belittle, shame, or sexualize
- 5** There are systems in place- not just good intentions. Safeguarding team, ongoing training, background checks, reporting systems.

All staff, volunteers, leaders, and members are encouraged to report:

- Abuse or suspected abuse
- Harassment
- Grooming behaviors
- Boundary violations
- Concerning or suspicious behavior

You do not need proof to make a report. Concerns should be reported based on reasonable suspicion or observation.

Reports can be made through the Victory Church Safeguarding Team at:

[getvictory.net/safeguarding](https://getvictory.net/safeguarding)

The Safeguarding Team documents concerns, responds appropriately, and helps connect individuals with proper resources and authorities when necessary.

All mandated reporters must report any disclosure or reasonable suspicion of child abuse/neglect and vulnerable adult abuse/neglect to both appropriate Child/Adult Protective Services and local law enforcement. We are not trained to investigate. Our role is to report.



**Abuse often impacts survivors in significant and ongoing ways. Jesus calls our community to do all we can to prevent abuse and care well for those impacted by it.**

Our local abuse resources include:

- Victim services- <https://www.victimservicescenter.org/> or 1-888-521-0983 (Montgomery County)
- Childline- 1-800-932-0313
- Vulnerable adult hotline- 1-800-490-8505
- Domestic Violence Hotline -1-800-799-SAFE
- Sexual Assault Resource - RAINN 1-800-656-4673

To view the full abuse policy and see more information on the Safeguarding team, go to: [getvictory.net/safeguarding](https://getvictory.net/safeguarding) or you can email: [safeguarding@getvictory.net](mailto:safeguarding@getvictory.net).



Current Safeguarding Team: Sgt. Alvin Outlaw, Pastor Missy Knechel, Dr. Chinell Collins, James Grasty, Ryan Walter, and Dr. Sheila Rhoden.