

Safe Church FOUNDATIONS (LAY) Handout

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C2.1.2.7.2 [List of Unacceptable Behaviours](#)

C2.1.2.12 [Mandatory Reporting for Lay Preachers and Lay Workers](#)

WARNING – The information in this document may be confronting and includes topics about abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Please continue to look after your own wellbeing and seek support if you need it.

Abuse = Action	Harm = Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Emotional Sexual Neglect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Emotional Physical
Physical Abuse	Emotional Abuse
Non-accidental use of physical force against another individual which results in harm (intended or not).	Pattern of behaviour that intentionally undermines, manipulates, or controls another person's emotions, thoughts, beliefs or actions.
Neglect	Financial Abuse
Failure by a parent or caregiver to provide a young or vulnerable person with the conditions that are culturally accepted in a society as being essential for physical and emotional development and wellbeing.	Domestic or interpersonal abuse where one individual exerts control over another person's financial resources, assets, debts, or financial decision-making to gain power and control over them.
Sexual Abuse	Social Abuse
Unwanted or non-consensual activity or behaviour that is forced upon an individual against their will or without consent.	Deliberate act of isolating an individual or group of individuals from social interactions and relationships as a form of mistreatment or harm.
Spiritual Abuse	Domestic and Family Violence
Misuse or manipulation of religious or spiritual beliefs, practices, or teachings to control, manipulate, or harm individuals or groups.	A family member, partner or ex-partner, or other household member attempts to physically or psychologically dominate the other.
Indicators of Sexual Abuse	Grooming
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequent, recurring nightmares, bedwetting or soiling clothing. Unexplained injury to sexual body parts. Hints about sexual activity or sexual knowledge beyond child's age or developmental stage. Overly sexualized behaviour / play / themes in artwork. Refusing to talk about 'secrets' Unexplained gifts or money Recurring themes of power / control in play Sudden behavioural shifts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliberate actions with aim of befriending and establishing an emotional connection. Used to lower inhibitions in preparation for sexual activity. Is a criminal offence in Queensland. <p>Possible indicators (but not automatically grooming):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fear, dislike, discomfort or reluctance around a particular adult. Repeated unacceptable behaviours. Frequent, vague or implausible health complaints. Unexplained gifts, particularly of high value. Displaying harmful or problematic sexual behaviour.

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Unacceptable behaviours

- Physical, emotional, behavioural and spiritual unacceptable behaviours are outlined on the Hub.
- Interrupt and report unacceptable behaviours:
 - Be firm, polite and non-judgemental.
 - Don't make assumptions about motives of why someone has violated a boundary.
 - Don't be afraid of the role of the person – we are all accountable for behaving appropriately.
- Report all concerns (Mandatory Reporting process).

Responding to Disclosure – B.C.A.L.M

B	Breathe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a quick, calming technique. • Suggest the person 'take a deep breath'. Box breathing – Breathe in for 4 seconds, hold for 4 seconds, breathe out for 4 seconds, and hold for 4.
C	Calm the person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay focused on them and their story. • The words you use will have a profound and lasting impact. Use words like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ You've done the right thing by telling me. ◦ I believe you. ◦ It wasn't your fault.
A	Assess immediate danger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For immediate danger, call 000 and ask for police. • Gently ask questions early in the conversation to help assess if not mentioned outright. • Seek support from another leader or Ministry Agent to ensure the physical safety of yourself and person disclosing.
L	Let them know your obligations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage expectations by explaining the next steps: "I need to tell someone else so that we can get some help for you". • Explain your responsibility to report child abuse concerns and allegations.
M	Make a report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform Ministry Agent or complete internal reporting (QR code/link/call). • Report suspected sexual abuse or grooming to police.

Mandatory Reporting - Injury - Illness - Abuse - Neglect - Boundary Violations - Hazards - Near Misses - Property Damage



Injury and Illness
(WHS)
(07) 3377 9870

Abuse and neglect
(Safe Church)
(07) 3377 9983

After Hours
(urgent matters only)
(07) 3377 9706

