

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DEEP RIVER

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION POLICY

What is this policy?

The policy stems from the Board of Christian Education's continued commitment to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children and youth.

The policy provides for screening and training to prevent abuse as well as procedures in the event of abuse.

Why do we need a policy like this in our church?

First Congregational Church of Deep River is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for the children and youth entrusted into this church's care in order to foster a positive Christian learning experience.

This policy is a pro-active means of ensuring we continue as much as possible to engage capable and nurturing individuals in the care of our children and youth and to offset potential liability.

Our church family is growing. As a church grows in numbers, it is not possible to know all the parishioners.

Would abuse happen in a community like Deep River?

We all know that most abuse occurs with people we know yet we often don't carry that awareness into a church.

"Although the majority of this abuse occurs within the home, over 30% of cases involve adults in day care, sporting, educational and religious programs. Victims can be found among every social, racial, economic and religious group in our nation."
(from Church Law and Tax Report)

What exactly will change?

We already have wonderful committed and dedicated teachers, nursery care givers, and youth leaders who are doing a wonderful job of keeping our children safe. Teachers, youth leaders, mentors and any volunteers with children and

youth will complete a volunteer sheet and offer references.

What about privacy?

The information from these forms will be kept in a confidential file accessible only to the Minister and the Christian Education and Youth Director(s).

What if I have been volunteering at this church for years? Will I still have to fill out these forms?

As a new policy we need to apply standards to all equally. Thus, we are asking that all volunteers complete these forms. All volunteers will be asked to fill them out yearly to ensure current information.

**Who should I talk to if
I desire to express my
views or questions?**

Timothy Haut
Sr. Minister

Sybil Higgins
Director of Christian Education

Phone: 860-526-5045

Copies of these documents
are available in the church
office or C.E. office.

The congregation of the Deep River Congregational Church aspires to be a Christ centered fellowship where all can seek a closer relationship with God.

We recognize that all person's are created in God's image (Genesis 1:26). Both the Old and New Testaments instruct the faithful to do justice and to care for all persons, including the young. To that end, Deep River Congregational Church is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for the children and youth who are entrusted into this church's care in order to foster a positive Christian learning experience

Deep River Congregational Church



**CONTINUING
TO KEEP
GOD'S
CHILDREN
SAFE**