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# Protecting Our Children and Youth

*This document summarizes the principles and policies in the Protecting Children and Youth online training found at [protectingchildren.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://protectingchildren.ChurchofJesusChrist.org).*

Church activities and classes are opportunities for children and youth to feel the love of the Savior and the influence of the Holy Ghost. While at church and Church activities, children and youth need to feel safe and protected. Leaders and teachers should remember the Savior's example of love and concern for children.

## KEY PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES COVERED IN THE TRAINING.

- The Lord expects us to do all we can to prevent abuse and to protect and help those who have been victims of abuse.
- The Church does not tolerate abuse in any form. Abuse violates the laws of God and may also be a violation of the laws of society.
- "When adults are teaching children or youth in Church settings, at least two responsible adults should be present" (*Handbook 2: Administering the Church*, 11.8.8, [ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://ChurchofJesusChrist.org)).
- "At least two adult supervisors must be present at all Church-sponsored activities attended by children, youth, and young single adults" (*Handbook 2*, 13.6.2).
- Avoid extended one-on-one communication with children or youth, and regularly communicate with parents or guardians about activities or concerns.
- When inappropriate behavior or abuse happens, you should act promptly to protect the child or youth.

### **U.S. and Canada**

If you learn of abuse, you should immediately contact legal authorities. You should also counsel with your bishop or stake president, who will call the abuse help line for guidance in helping victims and meeting reporting requirements.

### **Countries Outside of the U.S. and Canada**

Learn how and when you should report abuse. In most countries, you will immediately need to contact legal authorities. Counsel with your bishop or stake president for direction. If the abuse help line is not available in your country, the bishop will counsel with the stake president and area office to learn the proper process for reporting abuse and protecting the person that was abused.

For more information, visit [abuse.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://abuse.ChurchofJesusChrist.org), visit [protectingchildren.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://protectingchildren.ChurchofJesusChrist.org), and read the following policies in *Handbook 2*: 11.8.8, 13.6.2, 13.6.12, 21.4.2.