

Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference
Safe Sanctuaries Abuse Prevention Policies
Pre-test and Post-test

The following questions are based on information found in the Safe Sanctuaries Abuse Prevention Policy Template. There is a mixture of True/False statements and short “fill in the blanks”. Circle T or F

1. Most US church’s minimum standards require local church Safe Sanctuary policy state that the church will not hire any person with a history of committing sexual abuse on any child, youth or vulnerable adult. **T F**
2. Oregon law offers immunity for anyone reporting child abuse as long as the report is not intentionally false. **T F**
3. When someone alleges abuse against a youth, the local church must launch a complete and thorough investigation, including interviewing all potential witnesses, even if they are uncooperative. **T F**
4. Having a policy aimed at preventing abuse risks lawsuits. **T F**
5. A Safe Sanctuaries policy is not helpful, since it is not prevention but “Risk Reduction.” **T F**
6. An effective Safe Sanctuaries strategy for prevention involves, at least in part: a perspective of hope, open conversations, risk reduction policy, culture change, an understanding of the inherent value and equality of all God’s children, respect for survivors, and a recognition that everyone has a part to play in ending abuse. **T F**
7. Persons at risk for perpetration of sexual assault are more likely to perpetrate abuse if they feel the following conditions are present: (1) Opportunity [access]; (2) Lack of believability on the part of the person targeted - ***as understood by the potential perpetrator***; (3) Lack of anticipated accountability for their actions. (not in template, but important to know). **T F**
8. It is important to know who are mandated reporters for your state:
 - a. In Oregon _____ are mandated reporters.
 - b. In Idaho _____are mandated reporters.
9. The current Safe Sanctuaries Policy Template requires that church staff members who observe financial abuse of an elderly person must report it. **T F**
10. The Annual Conference minimum standards would find abuse where an adult shares sexually explicit, pornographic pictures with a youth. **T F**
11. Outside groups may have slightly different requirements than church groups. **T F**

12. All adults, volunteer or staff persons who have regular and direct contact with children, youth, and vulnerable adults and/or act to lead worship or represent the church in an ongoing, official capacity shall be required to complete an application including disclosure of information including legal name and other names previously used, date of birth, and voluntary disclosure of any convictions or abusive behavior. **T F**

13. The most important part of Safe Sanctuaries is: _____.

Answers:

1. Most US church's minimum standards require local church Safe Sanctuary policy state that the church will not hire any person with a history of committing sexual abuse on any child, youth or vulnerable adult. **False (it is true for Oregon)**
2. Oregon and Idaho law offers immunity for anyone reporting child abuse as long as the report is not intentionally false. **True¹**
3. When someone alleges abuse against a youth, the local church must launch a complete and thorough investigation, including interviewing all potential witnesses, even if they are uncooperative. **False – see page 7 of the template – investigations are to be handled by the proper authorities.**
4. Having a policy aimed at preventing abuse risks lawsuits. **False – Lawsuits come from claims; bad behavior or people feeling unsafe create claims**
5. A Safe Sanctuaries policy is not helpful, since it is not prevention but "Risk Reduction." **False**
6. An effective Safe Sanctuaries strategy for prevention involves, at least in part: a perspective of hope, open conversations, risk reduction policy, culture change, an understanding of the inherent value and equality of all God's children, respect for survivors, and a recognition that everyone has a part to play in ending abuse. **True**
7. Persons at risk for perpetration of sexual assault are more likely to perpetrate abuse if they feel the following conditions are present: 1. Opportunity (access); 2. Lack of believability on the person targeted (as understood by the potential perpetrator); 3. Lack of anticipated accountability for their actions. **True. Accountability is the opposite entitlement**
8. It is important to know who are mandated reporters for your state:

1. In Oregon _____ are mandated reporters² **list**

¹ <https://www.childwelfare.gov/>

Immunity for Making Reports

All States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands provide some form of immunity from liability for persons who in good faith report suspected instances of child abuse or neglect under the reporting laws. Immunity statutes protect reporters from civil or criminal liability that they might otherwise incur. This protection is extended to both mandatory and voluntary reporters.² Mandatory reporters are persons who are required to report; voluntary reporters are not required to report but may choose to report. For a State-by-State summary of mandatory reporting laws, see Information Gateway's *Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect* at <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/statutes/manda/>. The term "good faith" refers to the assumption that the reporter, to the best of his or her knowledge, had reason to believe that the child in question was being subjected to abuse or neglect. Even if the allegations made in the report cannot be fully substantiated, the reporter is still provided with immunity. There is a "presumption of good faith" in approximately 17 States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, and Guam, which means that the good faith of the reporter is presumed unless it can be proven to the contrary.³

² https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/abuse/pages/mandatory_report.aspx

Who are mandatory reporters? For a current and complete list of public or private officials who are mandatory reporters please refer to Oregon Revised Statute 419B.005 (3). Some of these mandatory

2. In Idaho _____ are mandated reporters **all adults**
9. The current Safe Sanctuaries Policy Template requires that church staff members who observe financial abuse of an elderly person must report it. **True This is because abuse is defined to include economic abuse. Staff members are required to report all forms of abuse.**
10. The Annual Conference minimum standards would find abuse where an adult shares sexually explicit, pornographic pictures with a youth. **True**
11. Outside groups may have slightly different requirements than church groups. **True. Get as much information as you can; waiver; get as much common ground as you can.**
12. All adults, volunteer or staff persons who have regular and direct contact with children, youth, and vulnerable adults and/or act to lead worship or represent the church in an ongoing, official capacity shall be required to complete an application including disclosure of information including legal name and other names previously used, date of birth, and voluntary disclosure of any convictions or abusive behavior. **True – page 5 of template**
13. The most important part of Safe Sanctuaries is: _____. **Me/You/the community**

reporters include: Physician or physician assistant licensed under ORS chapter 677 or naturopathic physician, including any intern or resident; Dentists; School employee, including an employee of a higher education institution; Licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, nurse practitioner, nurse's aide, home health aide or employee of an in-home health service; Peace officer; Psychologist; Member of the clergy; Regulated social worker; Optometrist; Chiropractor; Certified provider of foster care, or an employee thereof; Attorney; Licensed professional counselor; Licensed marriage and family therapist; Firefighter or emergency medical services provider; A court appointed special advocate, as defined in ORS 419A.004; A child care provider registered or certified under ORS 329A.030 and 329A.250 to 329A.450; Member of the Legislative Assembly; Physical, speech or occupational therapist; Audiologist; Speech-language pathologist; Employee of the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission directly involved in investigations or discipline by the commission; Pharmacist; An operator of a preschool recorded program under ORS 329A.255; An operator of a school-age recorded program under ORS 329A.257; Employee of a private agency or organization facilitating the provision of respite services, as defined in ORS 418.205, for parents pursuant to a properly executed power of attorney under ORS 109.056; Employee of a public or private organization providing child-related services or activities: Including but not limited to youth groups or centers, scout groups or camps, summer or day camps, survival camps or groups, centers or camps that are operated under the guidance, supervision or auspices of religious, public or private educational systems or community service organizations; and Excluding community-based, nonprofit organizations whose primary purpose is to provide confidential, direct services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or human trafficking A coach, assistant coach or trainer of an amateur, semiprofessional or professional athlete, if compensated and if the athlete is a child. Also for complete list: https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/ors/ors419B.html