

Fellowship in the Pass
First Southern Baptist Church
650 Oak Valley Parkway, Beaumont, CA 92223 (951) 845-2693

PLEASE DETACH AND KEEP

If you have not received clearance within 2 weeks, please call the church office.

Child Abuse Policy

The disturbing and traumatic rise of physical and sexual abuse of children has claimed the attention of our nation and society. The following policies reflect our commitment to provide protective care of all children, youth, and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities.

1. Adults who have been convicted of either child sexual or physical abuse should not volunteer service in any church sponsored activity or program for children or youth.
2. All adult volunteers will be fingerprinted for criminal background checks.
3. Adult survivors of childhood sexual or physical abuse need the love and acceptance of this church family. Individuals who have such a history should discuss their desire to work with children or youth with one of the pastoral staff prior to engaging in any volunteer service.
4. All adult volunteers working with youth or children are required to be members of Fellowship in the Pass Church for a minimum of six months.
5. Adult volunteers should observe the “two adult” rule. This requires that adults are never alone with children or youth without an adult partner.

Adult volunteers should immediately report any behaviors, which seem abusive or inappropriate to their supervisor.

Child Abuse Reporting Policy

All volunteer and paid staff, leaders, teachers, and childcare workers of Fellowship in the Pass Church involved with youngsters between birth and the 18th birthday shall immediately report to the designated department’s paid staff any suspicion of child abuse of which they have knowledge or observe within the scope of their duties. These leaders or teachers shall report the following, as well as any other indications that may suggest the occurrence of child abuse or neglect:

*Has an unexplained injury: a patch of missing hair, a burn, a limp, or bruises (but not limited to these)

*Has an inordinate number of “explained” injuries such as bruises on his/ her arms and legs over a period of time

*Drawings in conjunction with verbal testimony

*Prayer requests or written allusions

*Exhibits an injury that is not adequately explained *Complains about numerous beatings or severe punishments *Complains about others “doing things to them”

*Is dirty and smells, or has bad teeth, hair falling out, or lice

*Is habitually inadequately dressed for inclement weather

*Wears long-sleeved tops during hot days in an attempt to cover marks or bruises

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Standard Operating Procedure

All workers or volunteers of Fellowship in the Pass Church who have knowledge of or observe within the scope of their duties any suspicion of child abuse or neglect shall immediately make a confidential report only to the department directors and/ or Pastoral Staff as listed below:

Children's Coordinator Discipleship Pastor Pastor of Young Adults Board of Elders

Senior Pastor Youth Pastor Minister of Music

All departmental staff shall immediately, in conjunction with the initial reporter, gather the following information (Church Suspicion of Child Abuse Form) on all reports of suspected child abuse that they receive. The departmental staff shall confer only with those listed above (at least three) and the person filing the report. This team shall confirm the veracity of the child abuse report and determine whether the Child Protective Agency and the Police Department shall be contacted. Reporting shall take place to protect the child. If one member of the evaluation team believes the suspicion warrants a child abuse report, the team shall contact the required agencies. If the determination is made to file a Child Abuse Report with the various agencies, every effort will be made to contact the child's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) at the same time. Additionally, every effort shall be made to remain in contact with the family to provide follow-up support and assistance in any way possible.

Upon filing the report with the required agencies, the spokesperson for the church shall be contacted and brought up to date on the discussion and action taken. No other person or personnel shall talk to the press or outside agencies except the person designated to do so. All calls and contacts shall be directed to such person. These matters are not to be discussed with anyone in the church or outside the church and shall be kept confidential.

All paid and volunteer staff of Fellowship in the Pass Church who work in any capacity, directly or indirectly with children and families shall receive training on the detection of suspected child abuse and the implementation of this policy. They shall receive a copy of this policy and shall sign a statement attesting familiarity with said policy. All present workers and volunteers shall fill out the necessary forms and applications to be kept on file at the church.

The church's paid staff person shall call the Police Department's 911 emergency line and a Child Abuse Report shall be filed in, but not limited to, the following circumstances:

911 Emergency Child Abuse Reporting Policy

*A child requests immediate protection

*A child requests that the police be contacted

*A child expresses an overwhelming fear or anxiety about returning home with the person who brought them (may be in conjunction with other evidence of child abuse)

*Physical signs that may indicate life-threatening abuse