

# “Safe Sanctuaries” for North Georgia Conference Youth Events

According to the Conference’s Child Abuse Protection Policy:

1. The North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church endorses the recommendations for youth ministry sleeping arrangements as published in *Safe Sanctuaries for Youth: Reducing the Risk of Abuse in Youth Ministries* (Melton, Discipleship Resources, 2003, pg. 49):

*“In a hotel-type setting, it is recommended that youth be assigned to rooms and adults be assigned to separate rooms. This would also be recommended for dormitory settings. If possible, make the room assignments so that an adult room is between two youth rooms. It is also recommended that the adults arrange among themselves to check on the youth rooms on a random schedule during the night.”*

2. All District and Conference ministries with children/youth shall be governed by these guidelines:

- A minimum of two adults shall be present at all times. The number of workers required for each event (above the minimum of two) will be determined by the number and age of the participants and the nature of the activities. *(note: 6 students to 1 adult of the same gender for SLR and Confirmation retreats)*
- If both boys and girls are participants, then the adult leaders should also include both men and women.
- Unauthorized visitors will not be allowed to visit the premises or remain with the group.
- Participants will not be allowed to leave the designated meeting area without permission/supervision.
- During ministry events, one-on-one activities shall not be conducted “behind closed doors” or in an isolated area away from trained supervisory persons.
- All ministry events will be carried out in appropriate locations with adequate equipment and trained adult supervisors present.

3. The General Conference mandate of 1996 requires all UM Churches to have policies and procedures in place to make sure no harm comes to those under the age of 18 while they are in our care and ministry. Simply put, every church should plan to screen, train, and supervise all workers and establish a suspected abuse-reporting plan that complies with Georgia state law. This form is being required to continually make you aware of this mandate, but also to make sure that we are complying at all Conference Youth Events.

For more information, you may obtain a copy of the Conference Abuse Prevention Policy at [www.ngumc.org](http://www.ngumc.org). You may also obtain more information about constructing and implementing a Policy with *Sanctuaries for Youth: Reducing the Risk of Abuse in Youth Ministries* (Melton, Discipleship Resources, 2003, pg. 49):

I certify that I am the group leader that is “in charge” of my group. On behalf of myself and as an agent of the congregation that I represent, I accept responsibility for making the appropriate arrangements to fulfill these expectations for this North Georgia Conference Youth Event.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Church or group: \_\_\_\_\_

Town where Church is located: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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