

General Convention Resolution

In August 2003, the 74th General Convention passed Resolution B008 entitled The Protection of Children and Youth from Abuse. It contains the following two provisions:

Resolved, That this Church acknowledges that the times and circumstances demand that the church articulate a clear and firm commitment to the safety of all, especially children; that we support this commitment with clear and firm policies and procedures for the well-being of all; and that we commit this Church to being and becoming a place where children and youth are safe, especially from abuse and neglect.

Resolved, That each diocese develop and adopt policies for the protection of children and youth from abuse.

The resolution further identifies five required subjects that each diocese's policies need to address, and provides that all dioceses must fully comply by early 2006.

A copy of Resolution B008 is available on the Church Pension Group website: www.cpg.org (Click on *Property & Liability Insurance*, then click on *Sexual Misconduct*.)

Support from the Church Pension Group and Church Insurance Companies

To assist Episcopal institutions in responding to the mandates of Resolution B008, the Church Pension Group has developed the following materials:

Model Policies and Procedures

Developed in cooperation with outside experts and several involved groups in the church, these policies respond to all five elements identified in the resolution.

These Model Policies are provided without cost to any Episcopal diocese, parish or other institution. In addition, they will be updated periodically as improved approaches to protect children from abuse are developed.

Child Abuse Awareness and Training Materials

Two professionally produced videos with supporting participant materials and training manuals are available.

For Parents and Congregations is a powerful 29-minute video presentation describing how all adults can protect children from those who would molest them.

For Ministries is a 22-minute video presentation that builds upon the first, and is designed for clergy, lay employees and volunteers who regularly work with children and youth, and lay leaders who supervise these activities. It describes how to make church programs and activities safe for children and youth.

For more information about sexual misconduct prevention resources for Episcopal institutions, please call toll-free: (800) 293-3525.

Sexual Misconduct Prevention Resources for Episcopal Institutions

Safeguarding God's Children

Model Policies and Procedures and newly revised awareness and training materials to support efforts to protect children

Recommended Policy Elements

Resolution B008 recommends that child abuse misconduct policies and procedures include the following five elements:

1. A screening and selection process for all clergy, lay employees and volunteers who regularly work with children or youth.
2. Clear behavioral standards for clergy, lay employees and volunteers working with children or youth.
3. Monitoring of programs for and interactions with children and youth.
4. Education and training.
5. Guidelines for responding to concerns.

Church Support Groups and Outside Resources

Within the Episcopal Church, the following groups offer special expertise in this area:

The Nathan Network

A church-wide group of diocesan leaders and case workers with special knowledge in a broad range of misconduct areas including boundary violations, sexual exploitation and sexual harassment, as well as sexual abuse.

The Nathan Network can be accessed on the web at www.nathannetwork.org

The following helpful outside resources are also recommended:

National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information

Telephone: (800) 394-3366

Website: <http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/index.cfm>

The Clearinghouse is a service of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources. It is a national resource for professionals seeking information on prevention, identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect, and related issues.

Childhelp USA™

Telephone: (480) 922-8212

Website: www.childhelpusa.org

One of the largest and oldest national non-profits dedicated to the treatment and prevention of child abuse and neglect.

FaithTrust Institute

Telephone: (206) 634-1903

Website: www.faithtrustinstitute.org

A non-profit resource providing speakers and training materials about sexual misconduct issues. The organization was previously known as The Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence.