



Sexual Abuse

The problem of sexual abuse of children, and the growing wave of lawsuits alleging sexual abuse, is a real one. By far, the greatest danger to camps comes from the possibility of misconceptions by parents, who have been overly-sensitized by intense media coverage of this highly emotional issue. In such a climate, totally innocent routines and occurrences can be distorted; some parents misunderstand, make allegations and sue. Volunteers must be aware of where they are, who they are with and what they are doing at all times.

Volunteer Staff Screening

To help prevent the problems of sexual misconduct, each volunteer staff should be screened by the Program Director. If a Program Director does not have first hand knowledge of a staff member, a reference check should occur through the local church. This is the first line of defense.

Program Director's Log

Any problem which might hint of sexual abuse should be reported to the Camp Director, logged in the Program Director's Log and kept in confidence. Dates, time of day, witnesses and any other relevant information should be documented.

Supervision

All activities should be properly supervised. This is the best defense in preventing sexual abuse. The buddy system in activities, avoiding late night counseling sessions and wisdom in physical contact will go a long way in preventing these kinds of problems. Please note that sexual abuse can be verbal as well as physical. Do not hesitate to notify the Director of any potential problem.

Video

A sexual misconduct prevention video is required viewing for all staff members. The Program Director should make verification with member staff. Please schedule this at an appropriate time. This video can be viewed at the staff meeting the day of registration.