



# VILLAGE SEVEN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



MINISTRYSAFE

## Village Seven Presbyterian Church Children's Discipleship Policies



# VILLAGE SEVEN

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dear Children's Discipleship Volunteer or Staff Member,

Welcome to Village Seven Presbyterian Church!

At Village Seven Presbyterian Church, we take our responsibility to care for children very seriously. These guidelines are intended to facilitate a safe and nurturing environment in which children can grow in relationship with Jesus Christ.

The pages of this handbook provide a general overview of procedures and guidelines for Village Seven Presbyterian Church volunteers and staff members. Our policies are intended to create a safe environment for children, protecting children, you, and the mission of Village Seven Presbyterian Church. The following procedures have been adopted by the Session and will be diligently enforced.

After you have carefully read this policy manual, please sign and return the agreement form located on the last page.

Sincerely,

***Village Seven Presbyterian Church Leadership***

# Village Seven Presbyterian Church

## Policies & Procedures for Children’s Discipleship

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## **Overview of Village Seven Presbyterian Church Safety System**

Because we desire to protect children involved in our ministry, Village Seven Presbyterian Church requires all staff members and volunteers working with children or students to complete **FOUR SAFETY STEPS** before ministry work or volunteer placements begin.

### **STEP ONE: Sexual Abuse Awareness Training**

Village Seven Presbyterian Church policies and procedures require that staff members and volunteers avoid abusive behavior of any kind. Staff members and volunteers are required to report any policy violations to a supervisor or a member of the Village Seven Presbyterian Church Safety Committee. Staff members and volunteers should have a basic understanding of the characteristics of sexual abusers and their behaviors in ‘grooming’ a child for sexual abuse. Grooming is the process used by an abuser to select a child, win the child’s trust (and the trust of the child’s parent or ‘gatekeeper’), manipulate the child into sexual activity and keep the child from disclosing the abuse.

To equip staff members and volunteers with information necessary to recognize abuser characteristics and grooming behavior, Village Seven Presbyterian Church requires all staff members and volunteers to complete MinistrySafe sexual abuse awareness training (live or online at [www.MinistrySafe.com](http://www.MinistrySafe.com)). This training will be renewed every two years.

### **STEP TWO: Screening Process**

Staff members and volunteers are required to complete the Church’s Screening Process, which requires a staff member or volunteer to:

- Complete an Employment Application (employees only);
  - Complete the Safety Application (employees and volunteers);
  - Complete a face-to-face interview (employees and volunteers); and
  - Provide references to be checked (employees and volunteers).
- \*A volunteer must attend Village Seven Presbyterian Church for six months before being eligible to serve in positions providing access to children or students.  
\*A volunteer must be a member to serve in teaching positions.

### **STEP THREE: Policies & Procedures**

Staff members and volunteers are required to review the policies contained in this manual and sign the last page indicating that he or she has read and understood the material, and agrees to comply with policy requirements.

### **STEP FOUR: Criminal Background Check**

Village Seven Presbyterian Church requires that all staff members and volunteers working or volunteering in children’s or student activities or programming undergo a criminal background check. Depending upon position, differing levels or intensity of background check may be required.

## **Child Safety Policy**

### **ABUSE TOLERANCE**

Village Seven Presbyterian Church has a **zero tolerance for abuse** in ministry programs and ministry activities. It is the responsibility of every staff member and volunteer at Village Seven Presbyterian Church to act in the best interest of all children in every program.

In the event that staff members or volunteers observe any inappropriate behavior (i.e. policy violations, neglectful supervision, poor role-modeling, etc.) or suspected abuse (physical, emotional, or sexual) it is their responsibility to immediately report their observations to their immediate supervisor, the Children's Discipleship Director, the Discipleship Pastor, or the Administrative Pastor or another Pastor on duty, who will immediately report to a member of the V7PC Safety Committee.

This report must include the entire content of the observation, statement or circumstance creating a suspicion of abuse. Any Safety Committee member receiving such report must communicate the entire report to two other Safety Committee members within 24 hours. All Safety Committee members must meet and discuss the content of the report at the first reasonable opportunity. None of these requirements should delay a report to law enforcement, where appropriate.

### **REPORTING SUSPICIOUS OR INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIORS**

Village Seven Presbyterian Church is committed to providing a safe, secure environment for children and their families. To this end, any report of inappropriate behaviors or suspicions of abuse will be taken seriously and will be reported, in accordance with this policy and state law, to Church leadership and the Police Department, Child Protective Services, or other appropriate agency.

An element of the safe environment referenced above includes the fostering of a culture of reporting relevant information to a supervisor or a member of the Village Seven Presbyterian Church Safety Committee. Because sexual abusers 'groom' children for abuse, it is possible a staff member or volunteer may witness behavior intended to 'groom' a child for sexual abuse. Staff members and volunteers are asked to report 'grooming' behavior, any policy violations, or any suspicious behaviors to a supervisor or a member of the Safety Committee.

### **ENFORCEMENT OF POLICIES**

Village Seven Presbyterian Church staff members and volunteers who supervise other staff members or volunteers are charged with the diligent enforcement of all Village Seven Presbyterian Church policies. Violations of these policies are grounds for immediate dismissal, disciplinary action, or reassignment from Children's Discipleship positions for both volunteers and staff members. Final decisions related to policy violations will be the responsibility of the Administrative Pastor and the Session.

## **Reporting Abuse or Suspicions of Abuse**

### **REPORTING VIOLATION OF POLICY**

In order to maintain a safe environment for our children, staff members and volunteers must be aware of their individual responsibility to report any questionable circumstance, observation, act, omission, or situation that is a violation of these policies. All questions or concerns related to inappropriate, suspicious, or suspected grooming behavior should be directed to an immediate supervisor in the ministry area, the Children's Discipleship Director, the Discipleship Pastor, or the Administrative Pastor, or another Pastor on duty, who will immediately report to a member of the V7PC Safety Committee.

This report must include the entire content of the observation, statement or circumstance creating a suspicion of abuse. Any Safety Committee member receiving such report must communicate the entire report to two other Safety Committee members within 24 hours. All Safety Committee members must meet and discuss the content of the report at the first reasonable opportunity. None of these requirements should delay a report to law enforcement, where appropriate.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATION**

Any person accused of committing a prohibited act or any act considered by the church to be harmful to a child will be immediately suspended from participation in Children's Discipleship. This suspension will continue during any investigation by law enforcement or Child Protective agencies.

Any person found to have committed a harmful prohibited act should be prohibited from future participation as a staff member or volunteer in all activities and programming that involves children or students at Village Seven Presbyterian Church. If the person is a staff member or employee, such conduct may also result in termination of employment from Village Seven Presbyterian Church.

Failure to report a prohibited act to a supervisor or Safety Committee member is a violation of this policy and grounds for termination of employment of a staff member or employee. Volunteers who fail to report a prohibited act may be restricted from participation in any activities involving children or students at Village Seven Presbyterian Church.

### **REPORTING SUSPICIONS OF ABUSE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

Staff members and volunteers are required to report suspicions of child abuse or neglect, or any inappropriate behavior of a colleague or co-worker, to the immediate supervisor of the area, the Children's Discipleship Director, the Discipleship Pastor, or the Administrative Pastor.

It is the policy of Village Seven Presbyterian Church that all suspicions of child abuse will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency. In accord with this policy, a staff member or volunteer *may* report to an immediate supervisor, the Children's Discipleship Director, the Discipleship Pastor, or the Administrative Pastor, and allow supervisory personnel to make the appropriate report to law enforcement agencies. In no way is any provision in this policy meant to discourage any staff member or volunteer from *personally* reporting a suspicion of abuse or neglect to appropriate criminal or child protection authorities.

Staff members and volunteers are required to verbally report an incident causing a suspicion of abuse or neglect to supervisory staff as soon as possible after the incident. After receiving a report from a staff member or volunteer in Children's Discipleship, the Children's Discipleship Director, the Discipleship Pastor, or Administrative Pastor will speak with the person or volunteer to whom the child spoke in order to get detailed information about the entire incident. The Administrative Pastor will be notified as soon as reasonably possible.

If appropriate, the Children's Discipleship Director, the Discipleship Pastor, or the Administrative Pastor will inform the appropriate law enforcement agency.

### **RESPONSE TO REPORT OF ABUSE**

The Village Seven Presbyterian Church Session will take appropriate action on behalf of the church when a report of suspected abuse occurs.

## **Village Seven Presbyterian Church Safety Committee**

### **SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Recognizing the importance of providing and maintaining a safe environment for children, Village Seven Presbyterian Church will appoint and maintain a Safety Committee, which will meet once each quarter.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The purpose of the Safety Committee is to enable Village Seven Presbyterian Church Children's Discipleship to carry out appropriate ministry activities while safeguarding program participants against emotional, physical or sexual abuse.

### **COMPOSITION**

The Safety Committee will be comprised of the following members:

1. The Administrative Pastor;
2. The Discipleship Pastor
3. The designated Student Discipleship Representative;
4. The Children's Discipleship Director;
5. The Director of Security/Life Safety;
6. The Facilities Manager; and
7. Any individual delegated by the Session.

### **MEETINGS**

The Administrative Pastor will chair the meeting of the Safety Committee on a quarterly basis to discuss risk management practices and updates. The Safety Committee will also meet on an emergency basis upon the recommendation of a member or following the report of any incident or allegation.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Safety Committee will be charged with the following duties:

1. Applying existing Village Seven Presbyterian Church policies and procedures related to children's safety and risk management issues.

2. Monitoring all Children's Ministry programs for ongoing compliance with safety policies.
3. Making recommendations to the Village Seven Presbyterian Church Session regarding safety issues.

## **Children's Discipleship Staff Monitoring Plan**

Monitoring of staff and volunteers will include regular (announced and unannounced) visits in each program to provide supervisors the opportunity to observe staff members and volunteer interactions with children.

1. **Each supervisor** conducts an unscheduled observation at least once each week for programs that occur weekly.
2. **The Children's Discipleship Director or the Discipleship Pastor** conducts written performance evaluations every twelve months for individuals in paid staff positions.
3. **The Children's Discipleship Director or the Discipleship Pastor** conducts periodic verbal performance evaluations that include items addressing participation in risk management training and adherence to risk management procedures.
4. **The Administrative Pastor** conducts an unscheduled observation of a Children's Discipleship program at least once each quarter.
5. **The Administrative Pastor** meets with the Children's Discipleship Director, or the Discipleship Pastor, once monthly to discuss Children's Discipleship, including safety training and procedures.
6. **The Session** meets with the Children's Discipleship Director, or the Discipleship Pastor, once each year to discuss Children's Discipleship, including safety training and procedures.
7. **The Children's Discipleship Director and/or the Discipleship Pastor** conducts an unscheduled observation at least once each month for programs occurring weekly.

### **BUILDING SAFETY**

The Children's Discipleship Director, or the Discipleship Pastor, will be responsible for ensuring that the Children's Building is monitored during Sunday classes or programming. This will include observed and unobserved monitoring of staff members, volunteers and children in children's classrooms.

No child will ever be left unattended in the Children's Building or classrooms during children's ministry programming or classes. In general, Children's Discipleship staff members or volunteers are prohibited from being alone with an individual child in any room or building. In the event a staff member or volunteer finds himself/herself alone with a single child, that staff member or volunteer will take the child to a room or building occupied by others, or to a location easily observed by others. (Example: if a child is the last



in a class to be picked up by a parent, move to an adjoining room where other staff members or volunteers are present.)

After every programming event, Children's Discipleship staff members and volunteers must ensure every room and restroom is checked prior to leaving.

### **WORKER TO CHILD RATIOS**

Village Seven Presbyterian Church is committed to providing adequate supervision in all Children's Discipleship programs. Accordingly, the following worker to child *minimum* ratios will be observed:

<b>Program</b>	<b>Workers</b>	<b>Children</b>
Nursery	2	8
Preschool, 2 and 3 years old	2	12
Preschool, 4 and 5 years old	2	18
Elementary	2	20
Vacation Bible School	2	20

If a worker is 'out of ratio' it is his or her responsibility to immediately notify the program supervisor or the Children's Discipleship Director, or the Discipleship Pastor. Supervisors will make diligent efforts to find substitute workers to immediately bring worker to children ratios into compliance with Church policy.

### **DISCIPLINE**

It is Village Seven Presbyterian Church's policy that staff members and volunteers are prohibited from using physical discipline in any manner for behavioral management of children. **No form of physical discipline is acceptable.** This prohibition includes spanking, slapping, pinching, hitting, or any other physical force as retaliation or correction for inappropriate behaviors by children. Children are to be disciplined using time-outs and other non-physical methods of behavior management. In employing this procedure, staff members and volunteers should observe the following guidelines:

- 1) Verbally redirect the child before physically intervening. With younger children some physical redirection may be necessary (for example, removing a toy from the hands of a child that is hitting another).
- 2) If the behavior does not cease, remove or direct the child away from the group to a corner of the room where the group is meeting. (Avoid being alone with the child).
- 3) Provide the child with a simple, understandable reason for the time-out, and provide the child with clear explanation of your expectations. ("Jamie, you didn't stop hitting Chris when I asked you to, so you must sit quietly in the blue chair for three minutes.") In addition, be verbally reassuring, as being removed from the group will likely upset the child. Do not physically hold the child in time-out.
- 4) Provide the child with a chair to sit in or a "spot" to sit on (using a pillow, blanket, carpet square, etc.) until their time-out is complete.
- 5) Follow the rule of thumb that a time-out is ineffective if it lasts longer than one minute for every year of the child's life (3 years old, 3 minutes).

- 6) Monitor the child through the entire time-out without giving your undivided attention. For longer time-outs give intermittent praise to reassure the child and keep them on task. (“Jamie, you’re doing a great job of sitting quietly – just 2 more minutes.”)
- 7) Praise the child once he or she has completed the time-out and tell them that their reward is being able to rejoin the group. Remind them that repeating their initial behavior will result in further time-out. Follow this with praise.

Uncontrollable or unusual behavior should be reported immediately to parents and the Children’s Discipleship Director, or the Discipleship Pastor.

## **BATHROOM SUPERVISION AND ASSISTANCE GUIDELINE**

### **Nursery children**

Because nursery children may require complete assistance with their bathroom activities, all staff members and volunteers will observe the following policies:

#### **Diapering**

- 1) Only female nursery workers or the child’s parent or legal guardian will undertake the diapering of children of either sex.
- 2) Changing of diapers should be done in plain sight of other nursery workers.
- 3) Children will never be left unattended on changing tables.
- 4) Any special instructions given by parents leaving children in nursery will be recorded on the registration cards (“Georgia Love has a medicine in the bag for rash.”)
- 5) Children should be re-diapered and re-clothed immediately upon the completion of changing their soiled diaper.
- 6) Children should be changed on changing stations only.

#### **Toilet training**

- 1) No child will be forced to toilet train.
- 2) Only female nursery workers or the child’s parent or legal guardian will participate in toilet training efforts with children of either sex.
- 3) When children are taken into bathrooms the door will be left partially open.
- 4) Young children will never be left unattended in bathrooms.
- 5) Parents should be consulted on each child’s progress in the toilet training process before leaving the child with volunteers or staff members. Any special instructions given by parents leaving children in the nursery will be recorded on the registration card (“Georgia can use the toilet, but she needs to be reminded – ask her if she needs to go.”).
- 6) Children should be assisted in straightening their clothing before returning to the room with other children.
- 7) “Accidents” should be handled by reassuring the child and completing the changing of diapers or underwear and clothing. Extra clothing and diapers are available in the children’s area, if the parent has not furnished a clothing change.

### **School age children**

School age children may be accompanied to the restroom for supervision and assistance when needed. (However, children should receive the minimum amount of assistance needed based upon their individual capabilities.) Staff members and volunteers should never take a lone child to the restroom.

If a staff member or volunteer must go into the restroom to check on an individual child, he or she should seek out another worker to accompany him/her. If another worker is not available to accompany, he/she should go to the exterior bathroom door, knock, and ask if the child needs assistance. If the child requires assistance, the worker should leave the exterior bathroom door open when entering the bathroom area and try to verbally assist the child in completing their activities, while the child remains behind the door of the bathroom stall. Any assistance with the straightening or fastening of garments should be done in the presence of another staff member or volunteer.

### **Special needs**

Parents will offer instruction to staff members or volunteers to change the diapers of special needs individuals. After the age of 4, parents or legal guardians will change all special needs individuals.

### **GIFT GIVING**

Gifts are not to be given to individual children, but may be given to each child in a class, all at the same time. Gifts should not be from an individual but from the church/class/program/ministry.

### **INTOXICANTS**

Staff members and volunteers are prohibited from the use, possession, or being under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, or any illegal drugs while in any Village Seven Presbyterian Church facility, while traveling with children, or while working with or supervising children.

### **MEDICATION**

A staff member or volunteer will give no medication to a child.

### **NAME TAGS**

All Children's Discipleship staff and volunteers should wear and be identified by their name tags when they are working.

### **NUDITY**

Village Seven Presbyterian Church staff members and volunteers should never be nude in the presence of children in their care. In the event there is a situation that may call for or contemplate the possibility of nudity (i.e. changing clothes during a pool party, weekend or overnight retreat, etc.), the staff member or volunteer supervising the event will submit a plan to the Children's Discipleship Director or the Discipleship Pastor concerning arrangements for showering or changing clothes.

### **ONE-TO-ONE INTERACTIONS WITH CHILDREN**

Staff members and volunteers should never conduct one-to-one, unobserved meetings or interaction with children while participating in Children's Discipleship programs. Another adult who has completed the Church screening and training process should always be present.

### **PARENTAL CONTACT**

Parents who leave a child in the care of staff members and volunteers during church services or activities will be contacted if their child becomes ill, injured, or has a severe disciplinary problem while participating in Children's Discipleship programs.

### **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

Parents are encouraged to visit any and all services and programs in which their child is involved at Village Seven Presbyterian Church. Parents have an open invitation to observe all programs and activities in which their child is involved. However, parents who desire to participate in or have continuous, ongoing contact within children's programs will be required to complete the Village Seven Presbyterian Church volunteer screening and training process.

### **PHYSICAL CONTACT**

Village Seven Presbyterian Church is committed to protecting children in its care. To this end, the Church has implemented a 'physical contact policy' that promotes a positive, nurturing environment for our Children's Discipleship, while protecting children. The following guidelines are to be carefully followed by anyone working in Children's Discipleship programs:

1. Hugging, pats on the back and other forms of appropriate physical affection between staff members or volunteers and children are important for children's development, and are generally suitable in the church setting.
2. Inappropriate touching and inappropriate displays of affection are forbidden. Any inappropriate physical contact, touching or displays of affection should be immediately reported to an immediate supervisor, the Children's Discipleship Director, the Discipleship Pastor, or the Administrative Pastor or another Pastor on duty, who will immediately report to a member of the V7PC Safety Committee. This report must include the entire content of the observation, statement or circumstance creating a suspicion of abuse. Any Safety Committee member receiving such report must communicate the entire report to two other Safety Committee members within 24 hours. All Safety Committee members must meet and discuss the content of the report at the first reasonable opportunity. None of these requirements should delay a report to law enforcement, where appropriate.
3. Physical contact should be for the benefit of the child, and never be based upon the emotional needs of a staff member or volunteer.
4. Physical contact and affection should be given only in observable places or when in the presence of other children or children's staff members and volunteers. It is much less likely that touch will be inappropriate or misinterpreted when physical contact is open to observation.
5. Physical contact in any form should not give even the appearance of wrongdoing. The personal behavior of staff members or volunteers in Children's Discipleship must foster trust at all times. Personal conduct must be above reproach.
6. Do not force physical contact, touch or affection on a reluctant child. A child's preference not to be touched must be respected.

7. Children's Discipleship staff members and volunteers are responsible for protecting children under their direct supervision from inappropriate or unwanted touch by others.
8. Any inappropriate behavior or suspected abuse by a staff member, volunteer or another child must be reported immediately to an immediate supervisor, the Children's Discipleship Director, the Discipleship Pastor, or the Administrative Pastor.

### **SEXUALLY ORIENTED CONVERSATIONS**

Staff members and volunteers are prohibited from engaging in any sexually oriented conversations with children, and are not permitted to discuss any inappropriate or explicit information about their own personal relationships, dating or sexual activities with any child in the program.

### **SEXUALLY ORIENTED MATERIALS**

Staff members and volunteers are prohibited from possessing any sexually oriented materials (magazines, cards, images, videos, films, etc.) on church property or in the presence of children.

### **TOBACCO USE**

Village Seven Presbyterian Church requires staff members and volunteers to abstain from the use or possession of tobacco products in church facilities, while in the presence of children or their parents, or during Church activities or programs. Village Seven Presbyterian Church is a tobacco-free facility.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Staff members and volunteers may from time to time be in a position to provide transportation for children. The following guidelines should be strictly observed when workers are involved in the transportation of children:

1. Children should be transported directly to their destination. Unauthorized stops to a non-public place should be avoided. Staff members and volunteers should avoid transportation circumstances that leave only one child in transport.
2. Staff members and volunteers should avoid physical contact with children while in vehicles.
3. No cell phones may be used by the driver while driving Church vans, vehicles owned or rented by Village Seven Presbyterian Church, or personal vehicles, unless in an emergency.
4. No drivers under age 25 may drive Village Seven Presbyterian Church owned or rented vehicles.
5. When transportation of students is provided in personal vehicles, drivers must have proper and adequate auto insurance and must be approved by the Children's Discipleship Director or Discipleship Pastor.

## **VERBAL INTERACTIONS**

Verbal interactions between staff members or volunteers and children should be positive and uplifting. Staff members and volunteers should strive to keep verbal interactions encouraging, constructive, and mindful of their mission of aiding parents in the spiritual growth and development of children.

To this end, staff members and volunteers should not talk to children in a way that is or could be construed by any reasonable observer as harsh, threatening, intimidating, shaming, derogatory, demeaning, or humiliating. In addition, staff members and volunteers are expected to refrain from swearing in the presence of children.

## **RELEASE OF CHILDREN**

At any time that a child has been entrusted to Church staff members or volunteers, the Church incurs responsibility for the safety and well being of the child. Staff members and volunteers must act to ensure the appropriate supervision and safety of children in their charge.

Children's Discipleship staff members or volunteers are responsible for releasing children in their care *only* to parents, legal guardians, or other persons designated by parents or legal guardians at the close of services or activities. It is presumed a person who drops off a child has authority to pick up the child.

In the event that a staff member or volunteer is uncertain of the propriety of releasing a child, they should immediately locate or contact their immediate supervisor or the Children's Discipleship Director, or the Discipleship Pastor, before releasing the child.

## **SUPERVISION**

Staff members and volunteers in Children's Discipleship are expected to provide adequate supervision for children in their care while working in church programs.

**Policies and Procedures**  
**Statement of Acknowledgement and Agreement**

I have received and read a copy of Village Seven Presbyterian Church’s Children’s Discipleship Policies and Procedures and understand the importance of the material in the manual. I agree to abide by these guidelines while serving or working at Village Seven Presbyterian Church.

I understand the manual may be modified, and that any guideline may be amended, revised, or eliminated by Village Seven Presbyterian Church.

I have reviewed the duties listed in my ministry position description, and I agree to fulfill these duties. I understand I may choose to end my employment or voluntary service at Village Seven Presbyterian Church at any time. (If possible, I will provide two weeks’ notice to my supervisor).

I acknowledge and understand that the materials and guidelines contained in this handbook in no way express or imply a contractual employment relationship between Village Seven Presbyterian Church and me. If applying as a volunteer, I acknowledge and agree that I will receive no monetary compensation for hours worked.

I understand it is my responsibility to review new guidelines that may be created and distributed.

I acknowledge receipt of Village Seven Presbyterian Church policies and procedures manual.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Staff Member or Volunteer’s name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Staff Member or Volunteer’s signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

[This page remains attached to Village Seven Presbyterian Church Policies and Procedures.]

# Volunteer Statements and Agreed Code of Conduct

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\_\_\_\_\_ I declare that all statements contained in my Safety Application Form are true and accurate. I understand that any misrepresentation or omission is cause for dismissal from any program involvement.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that **my references and contacts** from prior volunteer or employment with children or students may be contacted and that an appropriate **criminal background check** will be conducted. I authorize investigations of all statements contained in this application. I authorize Village Seven Presbyterian Church to undertake a criminal background check related to my past.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I must be interviewed and screened before I begin service as a volunteer in Village Seven Presbyterian Church children's or student programs or ministries.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I can withdraw from the application process at any time.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that Village Seven Presbyterian Church has a policy of ZERO TOLERANCE FOR ABUSE and takes all allegations of abuse seriously. I further understand that Village Presbyterian Church cooperates fully with the authorities to investigate all cases of alleged abuse. Abuse of any kind is grounds for immediate dismissal from my volunteer position, and may result in criminal charges.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not a pedophile or child molester. I have not perpetrated physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse or neglect against a child or student and I have never been accused of these acts.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand and agree that false statements regarding past conduct and/or present situations may be grounds for termination of any volunteer position, and failure to reveal the contents of a sealed criminal record will result in the automatic denial of the application and opportunity to serve as a volunteer.

\_\_\_\_\_ If accepted as a volunteer, I agree to read and abide by all Policies and Procedures provided to me by Village Seven Presbyterian Church.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Volunteer's name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Volunteer's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

[This page remains attached to Village Seven Presbyterian Church Policies and Procedures.]



**Policies and Procedures**  
**Statement of Acknowledgement and Agreement**

I have received and read a copy of Village Seven Presbyterian Church's Children's Discipleship Policies and Procedures and understand the importance of the material in the manual. I agree to abide by these guidelines while serving or working at Village Seven Presbyterian Church.

I understand the manual may be modified, and that any guideline may be amended, revised, or eliminated by Village Seven Presbyterian Church.

I have reviewed the duties listed in my ministry position description, and I agree to fulfill these duties. I understand I may choose to end my employment or voluntary service at Village Seven Presbyterian Church at any time. (If possible, I will provide two weeks' notice to my supervisor).

I acknowledge and understand that the materials and guidelines contained in this handbook in no way express or imply a contractual employment relationship between Village Seven Presbyterian Church and me. If applying as a volunteer, I acknowledge and agree that I will receive no monetary compensation for hours worked.

I understand it is my responsibility to review new guidelines that may be created and distributed.

I acknowledge receipt of Village Seven Presbyterian Church policies and procedures manual.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Staff Member or Volunteer's name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Staff Member or Volunteer's signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

[This page to be detached and included in the employment/volunteer file.]

## Volunteer Statements and Agreed Code of Conduct

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- \_\_\_\_\_ I declare that all statements contained in my Safety Application Form are true and accurate. I understand that any misrepresentation or omission is cause for dismissal from any program involvement.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that **my references and contacts** from prior volunteer or employment with children or students may be contacted and that an appropriate **criminal background check** will be conducted. I authorize investigations of all statements contained in this application. I authorize Village Seven Presbyterian Church to undertake a criminal background check related to my past.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I must be interviewed and screened before I begin service as a volunteer in Village Seven Presbyterian Church children's or student programs or ministries.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I can withdraw from the application process at any time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that Village Seven Presbyterian Church has a policy of ZERO TOLERANCE FOR ABUSE and takes all allegations of abuse seriously. I further understand that Village Presbyterian Church cooperates fully with the authorities to investigate all cases of alleged abuse. Abuse of any kind is grounds for immediate dismissal from my volunteer position, and may result in criminal charges.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am not a pedophile or child molester. I have not perpetrated physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse or neglect against a child or student and I have never been accused of these acts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I understand and agree that false statements regarding past conduct and/or present situations may be grounds for termination of any volunteer position, and failure to reveal the contents of a sealed criminal record will result in the automatic denial of the application and opportunity to serve as a volunteer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ If accepted as a volunteer, I agree to read and abide by all Policies and Procedures provided to me by Village Seven Presbyterian Church.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Volunteer's name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Volunteer's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

[This page to be detached and included in the employment/volunteer file.]