

REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

Denton Bible Church is committed to providing a safe environment for children. To this end, any allegation or suspicion of abuse or neglect will be taken seriously and will be reported, in compliance with Texas law.

We report all suspected or alleged abuse or neglect of children.

Texas law requires that **any person** who has cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected must immediately make a report to the appropriate law enforcement agency or Child Protective Services (**1-800-252-5400**).

All adults in the state of Texas are mandatory reporters.

ADULT-TO-ADULT DISCLOSURES

In addition, an individual must make a report if he or she has cause to believe that an *adult* was a victim of abuse or neglect as a child, and the individual determines that disclosure of the information is necessary to protect the health and safety of *another child*.

Examples:

The alleged abuser is serving in a position of trust related to children.

(Ex: coach, teacher, pediatrician, youth leader, ministry leader) OR

The alleged abuser is suspected of abusing or neglecting a child *currently*.

(“I was abused by _____, and I think my 13 year old sister is now being abused.”)

The person making a report must identify, if known:

- The name and address of the child,
- The name and address of the person responsible for the care of the child, and
- Any other pertinent information concerning the alleged abuse or neglect.

Report all suspicions of child abuse or neglect (or any inappropriate behavior of a colleague or coworker) to an immediate supervisor or a member of the Denton Bible Church Safety Committee.

Because many adults are unfamiliar with Texas reporting requirements and may be fearful of the process, Denton Bible Church utilizes a ‘tandem or dual report’ model, where permitted. A ‘dual report’ occurs when a Denton Bible Church supervisor reports the suspicion or allegation *together with* the individual who saw, heard or received information causing him or her to suspect abuse or neglect.

THIS PRACTICE IS NOT INTENDED TO INHIBIT ANY STAFF MEMBER OR VOLUNTEER FROM REPORTING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OR CPS *DIRECTLY*. Instead, it is meant to facilitate reporting, protect children and support individuals who may not feel able or willing to report *alone*.

When in doubt, report.

The following information should be obtained when a claim or abuse or neglect is received:

People Involved

Provide detailed information about everyone involved in the incident; alleged victims, alleged perpetrators, others living in the home and anyone one else who can provide information about the incident.

If possible, provide the following information for each person involved in the incident:

(1) Name _____

DOB/Age _____

Address/Phone# _____

(2) Name _____

DOB/Age _____

Address/Phone# _____

(3) Name _____

DOB/Age _____

Address/Phone# _____

Please describe how each person was involved in the incident you are reporting by selecting from the following list and writing the descriptor next to their name above:

- Alleged Victim
- Alleged Perpetrator
- Both Alleged Victim and Alleged Perpetrator
- Neither/Unknown

What Happened?

Provide detail on the specific allegations and events. Be very detailed in your descriptions. For example, use specific dates and names. Avoid using pronouns. The descriptions provided are used to decide whether your report needs an investigation.

Overall, most abuse and neglect allegations are covered by the following topics:

- Abandonment
- Emotional Abuse
- Fetal Alcohol/Drug Exposure
- Medical Neglect
- Neglectful Supervision
- Physical Abuse
- Physical Neglect
- Sexual Abuse
- Labor/Sex Trafficking

Each allegation you select will require you to fill in related information about what you have observed. Though accurate terms are important when reporting abuse or neglect, you might not find an exact match. If you are reporting something that does not fit into the defined allegations, explain the abuse you are reporting.

Selected the allegation(s) associated with your report and describe each allegation. For each allegation, you will be asked to provide the information listed below.

Alleged Victim Name _____

Alleged Perpetrator(s) _____

Provide as many details as possible, such as: describe what happened, where did the abuse/neglect occur, how often, when (dates/times), etc. _____

Safety Concerns

Provide details regarding domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, living conditions and other safety concerns. Explain if there are concerns about weapons, gang involvement, or if there are people, pets, or conditions that could be a danger. If none exist, write **N/A**.

Family Dynamics and Living Conditions

Describe any concerns you have about the victim’s family dynamics and living conditions. If none exist, write **N/A**.
