



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Creating Safe Environments Independent Study Rubric

for the Faith Formation Leadership (Certificate) Program

utilizing resources from the Insurance Board (<https://www.insuranceboard.org>)

After your video viewing session, skim this **sample policy** (<https://www.insuranceboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Safe-Conduct-Policy-Template.pdf>) and make notes about which sections are already in your congregation's current policy. What items should be added to your church's policy? If your congregation does not have a safety policy, select the items that you would promote working on first and make plans with your pastor for how to begin the process.

Reading Links

Read the following links on the Youth Safety webpage of the Insurance Board website:

<https://www.insuranceboard.org/safety-central/youth-safety/>

- Bullying Fact Sheet (2 pages)
- Bullying Prevention and Intervention (2 pages)
- Bullying — Protect Yourself (2 pages)
- Bullying — Protect Youth (2 pages)
- Cyberbullying Prevention (1 page)
- Managing the Risk of Child To Child Abuse (35 Power Point slides)
- and any other links that pertain to your ministry responsibilities

Video Links

Visit <https://www.insuranceboard.org/online-learning/> and scroll down to the “General Safety” category to locate the following videos and their attachments:

- Abuse Prevention: Creating a Safe Environment (28 minutes)
Abuse Prevention PowerPoint slides:
<https://www.insuranceboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Abuse-Prevention-Webcast-1.pdf>
 - Evaluate how your church is currently doing in each of the 5 steps addressed in the video: great, good, okay, not so good
 - What is one thing in each area where you could begin to improve it?
- Copyright Concerns for Ministries (39 minutes)
**Note: Copyright concerns may not seem like a safety issue...until your church is sued for copyright infringement. The purpose of learning about the copyright law is to keep your church safe from litigation.*
Handout: Copyright Compliance — What Churches Need to Know
https://www.insuranceboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/9.1.2021_Copyright_Compliance_for_Churches_Additional_Resources.pdf
 - What are the practices that your congregation is currently doing that have the potential for litigation against you and/or your church?
 - What are some first steps you can take in order to prevent litigation?

For Future Reference

Be sure to bookmark the Insurance Board website for reference in your ministry.

Find out if your church is a member, and if so, ask about using the SafeConduct™ Workbench for your volunteers:

<https://www.insuranceboard.org/safety-central/safeconduct-abuse-prevention/>