

BMA of Missouri Child Protection Policy

I. Goal

It is the goal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Missouri and Camp Garwood, to provide a safe environment for the physical and emotional wellbeing for all of our campers.

Future revisions to this policy may be made with the authorization of both the Camp Director and the Encampment Committee.

II. Adult Screening

Every adult (18 yrs. old and older) must annually complete the Adult Screening form (volunteer application). There is a link to this form at bmamissouri.org

III. Workers

1) All workers must first be members of a BMA of Mo church. Although, under certain circumstances, the Director or the Encampment Committee may authorize an exception to this rule for a specific planned event.

2) All workers must annually complete the online training.

3) Workers include both volunteer and paid positions. (Evangelist, Cooks, Teachers, Primary Church Sponsor, Etc)

4) Any workers under 18 years of age. Must be under direct adult supervision.

IV. Six-month rule:

Churches may only send as primary sponsors. Members who have been active in their church a minimum of six months.

V. Criminal background check

- A criminal background check is required for all adults.
- No one who has been convicted of a crime involving misconduct with children will be allowed to work with children.
- Background checks will be performed annually for all adults.

VI. Identification bands

All campers, both adults and children, are required to wear an armband. These bands will be provided. These bands signify that the camper has been registered.

VII Two-adult rule

It is our goal that a minimum of two adults will be present at all times when children are being supervised.

One-on-one contact between adults and youth is prohibited. In situations requiring a personal conference, the meeting is to be conducted with the knowledge and in view of other adults. The only exception to this is for family members or legal guardians.

VIII Child pickup:

It is the responsibility of the churches primary sponsor to insure each child, leaves camp only with appropriate supervision.

IX Release of claims

Prior to any activity a participation agreement must be signed by the child's parent or legal guardian. Without the signed form the child will not be allowed to participate in the activity.

X Reporting policy

It is our policy to report any incident of child abuse or neglect.

- We do not treat any suspicion as frivolous.
- We will notify a Primary Sponsor or worker immediately.
- The appropriate personnel will commence the investigation right away.
- Anyone accused will be removed from duties involving children until the official investigation has been completed.
- We will cooperate fully with law enforcement officials.
- The camp director or his agent will inform the victim and victim's family of the steps that are being taken, and continue to keep them advised of the status of the investigation.

If child abuse is confirmed, the victim's family will be asked what action they would like to take in the matter. We will fully cooperate to address their requests within the bounds of a legal and prudent response. (Our legal counsel will assist in this determination.)

- In an instance where child abuse is confirmed, we will immediately dismiss the worker from their position.
- In instances where evidence is inconclusive, we will act with the advice of legal counsel in consultation with law enforcement officials.

XI Reporting obligation

Anyone who has reasonable cause to believe that a child is being physically abused, sexually abused or neglected is required to report this information to leadership who will call the local Department of Family Services or the Child Abuse Hot line.

XII Confidentiality

All reports of child abuse or neglect shall be held in absolute confidence except as necessary to cooperate with any official investigation. The camp director, in consultation with the official conducting the investigation may authorize limited additional disclosure if necessary to protect other children from harm in the near future.

XIII Preservation of records

Copies of all documents relating to an event of abuse shall be transferred to the camp director who shall retain them until advised that all criminal and civil investigations and actions have been completed.

XIV Liaison with the community

The Camp Director or sending church pastor will serve as sole access to the media. All campers should emphasize to the public its position on child abuse, its concern for the victim and the extensive steps being taken to address the safety of all children.

I have read and understand my responsibilities as an adult participating in activities with the BMAofMo, and Camp Garwood.

<https://www.ministryopportunities.org/BaptistMO>