

Cornerstone Church Chrisney Policy on Handling Sexual, Abuse or Neglect Allegations

Rev. June, 2023

The safety and protection of the children, youth and vulnerable individuals in our care is a primary focus of Cornerstone Church CHrisney, Chrisney, Indiana (CCC) as we commit to sharing the love of Jesus Christ to all individuals in our care. CCC bears affirmative responsibility to create an environment of safety and hospitality for all persons that encourages respect, equality and kinship in Christ. We will neither condone nor tolerate instances of sexual misconduct, harassment or abuse. In an attempt to achieve this standard, it is the policy of CCC that any physical, sexual or mental abuse or neglect allegations be handled with the utmost urgency and care to protect the dignity and rights of both the alleged victim and the accused. The identities of the individuals must remain confidential and only shared on a need-to-know basis so that a proper and thorough investigation can be performed. The below steps shall be taken:

- Anyone who has cause to believe that a child's physical or mental welfare has been or is being adversely affected by abuse or neglect by any person has a legal responsibility to report it to the appropriate state or law enforcement agency.
- Upon knowledge or suspicion of any improper, unethical or abusive conduct, the Pastor of CCC and the Chair of the Pastor, Parish Relations Committee (PPRC) shall be immediately notified of the allegation.
- If the accusation involves a minor's welfare or sexual abuse, the PPRC chair shall notify the appropriate law enforcement agency and any local legal counsel.
- The Church officers shall cooperate in all ways with all law enforcement agencies and conference or local legal representatives in the investigation and fact finding and comply with Federal, State and local statutes as explained by the involved legal representatives.
- If the accused has a role which is involved with CCC's ministries to children, youth or vulnerable individuals, the accused shall be barred from those activities until the completion of the investigation and the matter settled.
- Pastoral counseling should be offered to the affected individuals and family members during this difficult, stressful and hurtful time.
- If corrective action is required after the investigation, the PPRC Chair will direct the corrective actions. These actions will be at the discretion of the PPRC committee and be appropriate to the incident(s) determined. As well as possible, the actions determined should serve the best interests of the victim, the accused, the Cornerstone Church Chrisney and Christ Jesus.

Approved by the Church Council on this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Debbie Sisley, Church Council Chair

David Loertscher, Cornerstone Church Chrisney, Inc.