

CRISIS SITUATIONS

Crisis – anything that puts a student in immediate harm or possible harm in the future. (Examples: abuse, suicide, safety, cutting, pregnancy, sexual activity, etc.)

If a student begins a conversation where you feel they are about to share crisis information, or if a student asks to speak in confidence, you need to let them know that any information revealing a crisis will not be kept confidential. If possible, share from the beginning of those conversations that you are required to report any harmful situations.

For sexual or physical abuse situations, WorshipWorks Leadership Team, Staffers, Teaching Staff, local church pastors, staff members, and laypersons functioning in a ministry capacity are **mandated reporters** with any reasonable suspicion of abuse. (See 2020 Arkansas Code, Title 12, Subtitle 2, Chapter 18, Subchapter 4.) All other adults are encouraged to report abuse directly, but at a minimum are required to communicate the report of abuse to the PraiseWorks or the JoyWorks camp Director.

WorshipWorks Response Guidelines:

- Whenever and however you receive an allegation of abuse, the safety of the child is of primary importance.
- We will always strive to comply with any laws that apply to the situation.
- In cases where the child's parents are unaware of the abuse, and are not contributors to the abuse, as a general rule, they will be notified. Assuming that the parent is not the perpetrator, the parent should be instrumental in deciding how the situation is handled.
- Each case must be handled confidentially, sensitively, and compassionately.
- Each crisis situation (abuse, suicide, safety, cutting, pregnancy, etc.) will be taken seriously, acted upon immediately, shared with the church leader, and shared with the parents, in the appropriate circumstances. A student's later claims that they were fabricating the story will not change our response. Once a crisis situation is shared, it will be taken seriously.

Protocol:

Step 1

- When receiving report of abuse, or if you have reasonable cause to suspect, you are to report to the Arkansas Abuse Hotline, 1-800-482-5964.
- If the WorshipWorks office can be of any assistance to your reporting, please let us know, but it is not mandatory that you tell WorshipWorks of an abuse report.

- When receiving a report of any other crisis situation, notify the Camp Director of JoyWorks (Mollie Richie) or PraiseWorks (Jim Daniel) They can be reached through the WorshipWorks office.

Step 2

- For crisis situations not involving abuse, the Camp Director or on-site counselor (if available) will contact the appropriate authorities (local police, counselor, referred providers, pastor, etc.)
- If any abuse incidents occur during WorshipWorks camp, local police should be contacted immediately and then the Camp Director notified.

Step 3

- For Crisis Situations not involving abuse, student(s) and staffer(s) may be interviewed as appropriate.

Step 4

- In abuse situations, the authorities, through the hotline, will determine appropriate response. If the WorshipWorks office can be helpful in assisting in any other response and care, please feel free to consult the Camp Director. An abuse advocate can be consulted in further follow-up and appropriate communications with churches and parents.
- For Crisis Situations, the Camp Director will determine appropriate plan for follow-up.
 - This may include: contacting parent(s)/guardian(s) of minor, church chaperone/staff, appropriate agency.
 - Provide resources for parent(s), guardian(s), church to deal with the crisis.

Resources:

ABSC Children and Family Ministries – 501.376.4791 ext. 5167

ARKANSAS CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE – 1-800-482-5964

Licensed Therapists – see ABSC Children and Family Ministries

CRISIS INCIDENT ON-SITE

(Serious Accident, Sexual Abuse, Suicide Attempt,
Cruel/Abusive Treatment, Death, etc.)

A. Date: _____ Time: _____

B. Staff members involved: _____

C. Students involved: _____

D. Nature of incident and relevant circumstances surrounding it (use back of sheet if necessary): _____

E. If an abuse allegation or suspicion, did you report it to the hotline? If so, was the report accepted?

F. Notification of guardian: date: _____ time: _____

G. Describe follow up plan established by family members: _____

H. Could this situation have been avoided? If so, what suggestions for avoiding in the future? _____

I. Was a report filed with the Abuse Hotline? _____