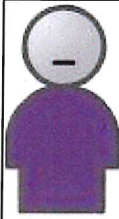




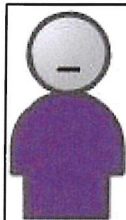
Incident Reporting – Risk of Harm Disclosures/Reasonable Grounds



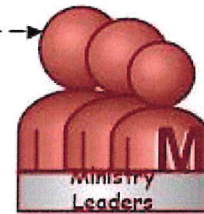
- A child tells someone that they have been or are at risk of being abused,
- Someone else reveals that they know of a child who has been or is at risk of being abused
- Someone has concerns that the child may have been or is at risk of being abused based on their physical appearance or behaviour

DO LISTEN, KEEP IT BRIEF, REASSURE, INFORM

DON'T DO NOT INVESTIGATE THE DISCLOSURE, DO NOT DISMISS THIS, DO NOT MAKE PROMISES, DO NOT SHARE



Report to the Safe Church Reporting Officer. If they are not onsite – report immediately to your Team Leader.

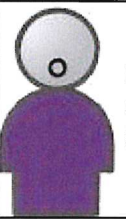


Complete an Incident Report. You may need help from the SCRO.

Describe why you have reasonable grounds for the report; how you became aware of the information; names of other witnesses; description of any injuries; description of the child's behaviour; the carer response attitude regarding the incident (if known). Where disclosure has occurred, provide a first person verbatim. Record the child's actual words as best you can.



As you continue to *nurture* and *minister* to the child: Create a calm environment, engage in appropriate relationships, continue to include the child, provide an ordered program, assist appropriate behaviours, focus attention on the safe space




Debrief by verbally and emotionally, "unloading" your feelings about receiving a disclosure or witnessing abuse with your Safe Church Reporting Officer





Pray that God will guide the situation, for wisdom, and for peace. Be assured that if further information is required, you will be contacted.





**Responding to Incident Reports
Risk of Harm / Disclosures**

 Someone advises you of a disclosure, or raises concerns regarding the immediate welfare of a child.


 Help the person who has received the disclosure, or is raising the concern to complete an Incident Report – Risk of Harm. Reassure, and provide appropriate care for the person receiving the disclosure.

 Is there any immediate risk of harm to anyone? Do you believe that a young person is in immediate need of assistance?


Yes →  Call the Police on 131 444 or 000 if life threatening.

 Is the Report on behalf of a child or young person who has been abused, or is at risk of being abused, neglected, ill treated, or exposed to behaviour that psychologically harms the child?


Yes → Contact the nearest Department Child Protection. Visit www.dcp.wa.gov.au for more information. The DCP will advise you about the initial action to take.

 Is the Report regarding a persons mental health that may be placing self or others at risk of harm? Or a suicide attempt or threat?


Yes → Contact either an ambulance; police; a local mental health team or the Mental Health Emergency Response Line
Metro: 1300 555 788 Peel: 1800 676 822
www.mhc.wa.gov.au

 Is the Report concerning criminal offences by others?

Yes → Contact your local Police. Seek advice from BCWA.
Tel Office Hours: 6313 6300
Emergency After Hours: 0400 581 310
www.baptistwa.asn.au

 Is this Report raising allegations of ministry misconduct or abuse by church leaders?

Yes → Seek advise from the BCWA Church Health Pastor

 Do you need help responding to this Report?

Yes → Seek advise from the BCWA Church Health Pastor

Remember: When Receiving a Disclosure

DO

- DO LISTEN do not add anything to what the child says. You will need to write this down, exactly.
- DO REASSURE the child that they have done the right thing in speaking to you.
- DO INFORM the child that you need to tell people who can help.
- DO ENSURE that the child is not in immediate danger.

DON'T

- DO NOT INVESTIGATE THE DISCLOSURE. You don't need to prove this. Don't ask leading questions.
- DO NOT DISMISS THIS - Children rarely lie about such matters.
- DO NOT MAKE PROMISES - You may not be able to stop the abuse.
- DO NOT SHARE - You cannot tell anyone who does not need to know, tell only your supervisor and/or the Safe Church Reporting Officer.

NOTE: KEEP IT BRIEF. This is not the only time the child will have to share their story and you may actually jeopardise an investigation, so you should not have a long conversation about this.