

**KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE CONFERENCE**  
**Suggested Guidelines for Churches with Convicted Sex Offenders**  
**July 23, 2015**

We recognize that while the Church is a place of redemption and grace, there are also important safeguards that we are bound to implement in order to provide an atmosphere of accountability and safety for all who worship in a Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Church. The following represents suggested guidelines for congregations who have been made aware of the presence of a convicted sex offender who is attending services as a guest or as a member of the congregation. These guidelines are not intended to cover all circumstances. Congregations within the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference should consult with conference leadership to address specific situations.

- Have the church board adopt an action stating that the board will appoint accountability partners and execute a written Accountability Agreement as a condition of worship or other fellowship within the congregation. The board should review and approve the Accountability Agreement.
- If applicable, explain to the church board that a convicted sex offender has asked to worship with the congregation (and has requested membership transfer, if applicable).
- Advise the congregation of the new protocol voted by the board.
- If a convicted offender is attending, it is important that the church members be made aware of this information in a way that is determined by the church board in consultation with conference leadership and legal counsel. Disclosure of the convicted sex offender, especially to parents of children, must be provided. The offender who wishes to worship within a given congregation must, as part of the Accountability Agreement, specifically permit such a disclosure.
- The offender should not have physical access to, or ever be present in, the children's or youth Sabbath School classrooms.
- The offender's physical presence in the building should always be known to at least one of a group of at least three Accountability Partners. Such Accountability Partners will serve to keep track of the offender while he or she attends church functions. Accountability Partners should be designated by the church board and should be advised of the duties, responsibilities, and expectations of the position. There should not be an occasion, while on church property, that the whereabouts of the offender is unknown.

- A signed Accountability Agreement should be implemented and modified to fit the circumstances of each case. A sample agreement is attached.
- Offenders should not be elected to any position in the Church or be permitted to volunteer in the Church in any capacity.
- Offenders should not be involved, be present, or participate in Pathfinders, Children's Sabbath School, Vacation Bible School, Adventurers, or any other children or youth functions of the church.

These guidelines are not intended to be punitive nor in conflict with the recognized principles of redemptive grace and forgiveness which represents the practice of Seventh-day Adventist Christians. Instead these guidelines may be used to manage and balance the need of the convicted sex offender to engage in corporate worship and the need of the congregation to provide a safe place of worship. It is with the prayerful desire that both the Church and the known offender may worship in an atmosphere that is conducive to the safety and welfare of all, both in the present and the future.