



West Ohio Conference

Volunteers in Mission:

Safe Sanctuaries for VIM Teams

to be used with teams with minors/persons requiring a legal guardian

Volunteers in Mission serve at the request of a host who has invited a team to a specific project such as education, construction, medical/dental, and more. Regardless of location, the host agrees to help organize details of the mission journey as we are their guests. All West Ohio VIM teams seek to honor the host's planning and hospitality while holding in tension the protections and liability of teams with minors/persons requiring a legal guardian. The West Ohio Safe Sanctuaries Policy provides procedures for protecting children, youth, and vulnerable adults. VIM Team Leaders are strongly encouraged to discuss the Safe Sanctuary guidelines with the host of their mission journey and to gather signature(s) of parent(s)/legal guardian on the Mission Journey Itinerary that highlights the collaboratively planned details of the mission journey, including any augmentations to the West Ohio Conference Safe Sanctuary Policy.



**When completed, please
return to Team Leader**

*A copy of this form will be
left with the local church or
conference office in the event
of an emergency.*

West Ohio Conference Safe Sanctuary Policy

Screening:

- We recommend that all staff and volunteers who may have regular or direct contact with children, youth, or vulnerable adults undergo a background screening.
- It is recommended that background screenings be repeated every 5 years (better every 3 years).

Supervision:

- Safe Sanctuaries Policy Training is recommended for all staff and volunteers working with children, youth, or vulnerable adults.
- To the extent practicable, supervisory standards should include the "two-adult rule" or "rule of 3".
- Children, youth, and vulnerable adults are to be supervised while attending a ministry activity or event.
- All ministry activities and events should be open to public view.
- Contact information appropriate to the ministry activity or event should be collected prior to the start of that activity/event.
- Ministry activities and events involving transportation should require written and signed permission from parents/legal guardians.
- No person shall supervise an age group unless he/she is AT LEAST 18 years of age and AT LEAST 3 years older than the children or youth being supervised.

Reporting:

- Safe Sanctuaries reporting is required by any staff or volunteer who personally witnesses an incident of abuse or exploitation or when an allegation of such an incident is made by a child, youth, or vulnerable adult.