Frequently Asked Questions
about our

# Protection Ministry Policies

**Why are we screening volunteers?**
We live in a broken and sinful world. Even in churches, there may be a few people who would harm others. This screening process reduces the risk of harm to the children, youth and vulnerable adults that we serve. It helps protect volunteers from unfounded allegations. It also reduces our church's legal liability, protecting our entire ministry.

**Are all these steps really necessary?**
Each of the steps in our screening process is now standard procedure for churches and other non-profits. They are strongly recommended by our insurance company. As these practices become common throughout our community, organizations who don't implement these steps become attractive targets for criminals.

**Why such personal questions on the application?**
We need to be thorough to weed out the rare 'bad apple.' These questions were recommended by a highly recommended lawyer who specializes in helping churches protect vulnerable people.

**Why do you need my Social Security number?**
The Social Security number is required for the criminal background check. If you prefer not to put it on paper, you may provide it in person.

**How do you protect the personal information I give you?**
It is seen only by those who need to see it for screening purposes. It is kept in locked files. We are required by law to keep it secure and we take confidentiality very seriously.

**If I've had some problem in my past, will I be forbidden to serve?**
The only automatic disqualifiers are convictions for sexual misconduct or child abuse. Everything else will be dealt with on an individual basis. It is not our goal to prevent people from serving. Our goal is to help people serve, while still ensuring safety.

**Is it going to make it harder to get and keep volunteers?**
Safety is our priority. Most volunteers will understand the need for these protection steps. Many have already expressed appreciation that such steps are being initiated.

# For More Information

**Protection Screening Implementation Team**
Karen Kogler, Director of Equipping • 224-387-3837 • kkogler@FullLifeInChrist.org
Isabel Peterson, Equipping Assistant • 224-387-3857 • ipeterson@FullLifeInChrist.org

**Protection Policies** can be read in their entirety on the church website at
http://fulllifeinchrist.org/get-involved/protection-ministry

**Risk Management Director**
Brian Booth, Executive Director for Ministry Support

**Protection Screening Team Members**
Dana Albers, Ingrid Erickson, Linda Glenn,
Jen Klein and Jill Von Boeckman