

# Reservoir Church - Safe Church Commitment

Reservoir Church seeks to be a place where people are physically, emotionally, and spiritually safe so that everyone can find belonging — we aim to do this through transparency and humility. The safe church commitments detailed below were written for our members, but certainly apply to our employees as well.

## What We Expect

- That church leadership keep policies to keep our children safe.
- That church staff and volunteers practice financial transparency and safety.
- That church leadership keeps a well-maintained, clean, and accessible property.
- That all members and guests, including leadership, refrain from unwanted touch or attention.
- That all members and guests, including leadership, respect others' boundaries and privacy.
- That all members and guests report unsafe situations or people to church leadership.

## What is Unsafe?

Some examples of potentially unsafe situations include, but aren't limited to:

- Unwanted touch or attention
- Violations of Kids Church policies
- Abusive language (slurs, name calling)
- Apparent unconsciousness
- Displays of erratic or violent behavior like yelling or throwing/hitting.
- Spiritual Leaders forbidding or shaming disagreement.
- Spiritual Leaders or Church attempting to isolate you from others or otherwise control your choices and relationships
- Violation of laws governing public gatherings and spaces. (e.g. smoking on campus)
- Anyone, especially a leader, expecting secrecy around an unsafe behavior.

## What to do when Something is Unsafe

If you feel unsafe at church, or if you are concerned that someone else is unsafe or a risk to themselves or others, don't keep it a secret. You can tell:

- The Sunday Welcome Team Leader
- Your Community Group Leader
- A Member of the Church Board
- A pastor

## When to Call the Police

We don't needlessly contact law enforcement for small matters, but criminal behavior such as child abuse will always be referred to police. In the event of a true public safety emergency, we encourage people to call 911. If you do dial 911 on campus, please also let a [pastor](#) know, so that we can ensure there are witnesses to any exchange with the police.

## A few ways to foster safe community for yourself and others

- Be open-minded. Listen fully, respond with care. Seek to understand other perspectives.
- Acknowledge hurt without assuming bad intention. Apologize for hurt done to others regardless of your intention. (Some call this the ouch/oops posture.)
- Ensure every voice has a chance to be heard.
- Take care of yourself physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Share vulnerably about your struggles with people you trust. Cultivate and affirm in yourself and our community the fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control)

If you need help with these practices, any of our pastors would love to talk.

