

# FOUR+H

*presbyterian church*

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## **CHILDREN AND YOUTH SAFETY POLICY**

It is the policy of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that all church members, church officers, nonmember employees and/or contractors, and volunteers of congregations, councils, and Entities of the church are to maintain the strongest sense of integrity, safety, nurturing, and care involving all interactions with children, youth, and vulnerable adults.

Below is the policy of Fourth Presbyterian Church in South Boston. The full PC(USA) Child/Youth/Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy can be found on [pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org) or can be provided by Fourth Presbyterian Church staff upon request.

The goal of this policy is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children and youth participating in any offerings from Fourth Presbyterian Church including, but not limited to, Sunday church services, confirmation class, Kids' Church, Soul Possibilities offerings, special events, virtual events, and Fourth Presbyterian Church social media.

In order to prevent the verbal, physical, or sexual abuse, neglect, or other harm against children and youth during their participation in events hosted or sponsored by Fourth Presbyterian Church, the following steps will be taken:

- I. Staff and volunteers working directly with children, youth, and families will be required to complete an application which will be kept on file and held in confidence in the church office.
- II. All child/youth workers must be at least 18 years old and four years older than the oldest youth whom they are serving.
- III. All volunteers will consent to a comprehensive background check which will be processed as needed and appropriate. (See Fourth Presbyterian Church's CORI Policy for more information.)
- IV. Children and youth will never be left alone with a single adult. All offerings involving children and youth must have at least two approved adults present.
- V. Any contact made with children or youth outside of Fourth Presbyterian Church offerings, including phone communications and social media communications, should only be made with the prior knowledge and consent of the child's or youth's parent or guardian.
- VI. Fourth Presbyterian Church will host a Safe Church training annually, which staff and volunteers are required to attend.
- VII. Staff and volunteers are required to report any known or suspected instances of child abuse, neglect, or other harm. If one needing to report an incident is not comfortable coming to a staff member of Fourth Presbyterian Church, they can contact the PC(USA) helpline for help notifying the proper authorities: (866) 607-7233

If you have questions about this policy or its application, contact Fourth Presbyterian Church's Director of Kids' and Youth Ministries, Janine Warrington, at [janine.warrington@fourthboston.org](mailto:janine.warrington@fourthboston.org).