

New England Yearly Meeting Subcommittee on Child Abuse Prevention

This page provides links to documents which might be useful to Meetings beginning to address prevention of and response to child sexual abuse. It begins with documents that provide general background and introduction. Some of these come from Quaker organizations. One is a training manual that we have found very helpful. Then we have posted documents developed by Monthly Meetings in New England. We hope that in this way Meetings can learn from each other's experience. We have policies and procedures adopted by small and large Meetings.

GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

NEYM Child Abuse Prevention Statement.

<http://www.neym.org/ministryandcounsel/Childabuse/ChildAbusePrevention-NEYMstatement.pdf>

This document was presented in August 2005 by a subcommittee of the NEYM Committee on Ministry and Counsel. It proposes guidelines and practices for prevention of and responses to child sexual abuse in our Monthly and Yearly Meeting programs. It is the product of two years of prayerful work by people expert in and or devoted to this issue.

Excellent Articles on Child Safety by Friends General Conference.

http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/summer05/creating_loving_safe_communities_perch.htm

This is a link to a 2005 issue of FGConnections focused on Friends and Safety. There are three articles in it that are useful to Meetings beginning to approach this issue. The titles are: "Where might Jesus stand?" "Faithfully caring for the faithful," and "Creating loving, safe communities."

Reducing the Risk II: Making Your Church Safe From Child Sexual Abuse. Kobble, Hammar, and Klipowicz. Reference book, training manual and instructional DVD. Our committee has found this program to be an effective introduction and approach to preventing child sexual abuse in a religious community. *NEYM owns 3 copies. Contact Beth Collea (Christian Education Coordinator) to borrow one.*

Resource List from the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting website.

http://www.pym.org/pm/lib_comments.php?id=3004_0_108_0_C

An excellent list of resources on child abuse and child safety. This list also includes resources for children to read.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's policies and procedures for prevention of child sexual abuse. <http://www.pym.org/education/safety.htm>

DOCUMENTS APPROVED BY MONTHLY MEETINGS IN NEYM

(If your meeting has approved minutes, policies, procedures, or forms that we do not have, please forward them to Carolyn Stone at carolynstone@comcast.net.)

Friends Meeting at Cambridge

This first document describes the policies and procedures adopted by Friends Meeting at Cambridge to prevent and respond to child sexual abuse. This was approved in March 2006. It also includes a code of conduct for youth workers, procedures for responding to and reporting on incidents or allegations of abuse, and practices for youth programs.
cfmpolicyprocedures.pdf

Here is a letter given to potential volunteers to explain the screening process, including a criminal background check.
cfmvolunteerletter.pdf

Here are updated practices to support the Risk-Reduction Policy from February 2009.
fmcpractices0209.pdf

Monadnock Monthly Meeting

Safe child policy adopted by a meeting without a regular attendance at First Day School
mmmdraftsafechildpolicy05.pdf

New Haven Monthly Meeting

New Haven adopted this policy in June 2005.
newhaven.pdf

Portland Friends Meeting

This is the minute that Portland Friends Meeting approved on January 2, 2007 to begin their process.
portlandchildsafetyandabuseprevention

First Day School Teacher/Assistant/Substitute Interest Form
staffinterestform.pdf

Guidelines for use of classroom and activity spaces
portlanduseofspace.pdf

Much earlier, in February 1997, Portland adopted a process for helping to resolve conflicts or incidents of abuse between Friends.
portlandguidelinestoresolve.pdf

Wellesley Friends Meeting

Here is a minute approved by Wellesley Friends Meeting that began their process of developing policies and procedures.
wellesleychildabuseprevention.pdf

This is a brochure developed by Wellesley Meeting to explain our practices with children. The title is Community in Safety.

<http://neym.org/ministryandcounsel/Childabuse/AbusePreventionBrochure1b.pdf>

This document is framed and displayed on the first floor of Wellesley Friends Center. It explains the process for reporting incidents of abuse or neglect, and it tells whom to contact about this.

wellesleyreportingprocess.pdf