

MinistrySafe, the official abuse prevention system for all churches in Central Texas Conference is very important to all of us. This newsletter will provide you with helpful information for your use.

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Understanding the Screening Process – Part 1

During our recent MinistrySafe workshops in the Conference, we heard good questions and discussion about the role of the Screening Process in MinistrySafe compliance. The Screening Process refers to the steps involved in personally vetting each person who wants to serve in your ministry and have access to children in your program.

The Screening Process is not optional, but an essential part of the safety system required by the Central Texas Conference and MinistrySafe.

The steps include:

- a written application (employee or volunteer)
- a one-on-one interview
- personal references (work, family, personal)
- 6 month minimum attendance at your church

To some individuals and congregations, this part of MinistrySafe compliance can be the most daunting. Yet, it is one of the most crucial parts of keeping our children safe. Sadly, less than 10% of sexual abusers will encounter the criminal justice system. Thus, relying on background checks alone to screen out predators is an inadequate safeguard for our kids.

What's the benefit of following this Screening Process?

- Questions contained in the screening documents provided by MinistrySafe are designed to elicit “High Risk Responses” to help you discern if a person is a good candidate or not to serve in your ministry. A pattern of high risk responses from a volunteer may cause you dig deeper for an explanation or give you reason to say no.
- While multiple screening steps may seem cumbersome to an honest and safe person, it is a chance for the predator or high-risk person to “opt out” of your process, which will be better for your ministry in the long run.
- The goal of the safety system is two-fold: to screen out predators and to equip your volunteers to prevent child abuse. After completing both the training and screening process, your volunteers will know more of what to look for and how to respond if there is ever any suspicion of abuse.

For more information on the Screening Process visit MinistrySafe by clicking [here](#).

The Central Texas Conference highly recommends the use of the Screening Documents designed by MinistrySafe. The Application, Interview, and Reference documents for local use is available by [clicking here](#).

For any questions please contact MinistrySafe (817-737-7233) or Rev. Amber Massingill in the CTC Conference Service Center (817-877-5222).

Coming Next Month....Understanding the Screening Process, Part 2: The Interview

August Edition You are receiving this newsletter because you are listed as a SSA - Safety System Administrator of your church. The purpose of the newsletter is to answer frequently asked questions, provide supplemental information and resources as they become available, and share best practices related to our Central Texas Conference policies and MinistrySafe procedures. Please share this information with your supervisors. *If you are no longer your church's MinistrySafe SSA, please be sure to change the information on your church's dashboard and contact Sheryl Crumrine (sheryl@ctcumc.org) to update our mailing list. The newsletters will be archived on the CTC website (<http://www.ctcumc.org/ministrysafe>). This site also contains a link through which you can submit a topic for consideration to the MinistrySafe Oversight Committee for inclusion in a future newsletter.*

We hope this resource will be helpful for you as we move forward into implementing MinistrySafe and to continuing to grow in excellence in our care for children and youth in the years ahead.

The CTC MinistrySafe Oversight Committee



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Our mailing address is:

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