

# St Peters Church

## Child Protection Policy

November 2017

**This document has been formulated with the end in mind of protecting both the children in our programmes and the volunteers who work with them.**

The document has taken into account:

- the Child Protection Act of South Africa (Act 38 of 2005, Amendment Act, 2007),
- the People's Protection Policy of REACH SA,
- Protection policy Handbook of Christ Church Midrand,
- Safeguarding Policy Document of Co-mission Churches, London.

Since we are commanded by God to submit to the authorities that he has set over us (1 Peter 2:13), it shall be the goal of St. Peter's Church to uphold the objects of the South African constitution with regards to child protection. The Children's Act (Act 38 of 2005 – Articles 123,124 and 126, Amendment Act, 2007 – Article 110) details the following with regard to rights and care of children:

- Protection from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation.
- Best interests of a child are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child.
- No person whose name appears in Part B of the National Child Protection Register may participate or assist in providing welfare services to children, including church ministries.
- Where possible (due to slow processing), before a person is allowed to work with or have access to children at St. Peter's Church, Fish Hoek, it must be established whether or not that person's name appears in Part B of the National Child Protection Register.
- Any worker and volunteer worker at St. Peter's Church who, on reasonable grounds, concludes that a child has been treated in a manner causing physical

injury, sexual abuse/harm or deliberate neglect, must report that conclusion to our designated Child Protection Officer, Mariska Pienaar (0794596745) or Sean Savides (0797404560) who will escalate it to the necessary Authorities.

Emergency numbers:            Childline: 080 005 5555

   Social services: 011 355 7687

   Fish Hoek SAPS: 021 784 2700

### **Conclusions:**

Children are entitled to be safe and protected. They have the right to be respected, listened to and their particular needs addressed in all Church activities, whether mixed aged or child specific. Ministry where children are involved requires absolute trustworthiness.

This is our policy document. It is supplemented by our handbook, to help our leaders implement the policy of this document in varied contexts. Both documents are supplemented by in house Child Safeguarding training.

St. Peter's Church, in the interest of the safety of our children and of Christ's name in our community, will always err on the side of caution. We seek your co-operation with this. All our actions are required to be beyond reproach in all matters, particularly in matters relating to the safety of our children.

Our aim is to create a safe environment in every case for children in our care. Our aim is to combine good leadership with a safe environment and safe practices. The more our leaders are equipped in this area, the closer we will be to achieving a safe ministry.

### **Before commencing ministry, every volunteer must:**

1. Read this policy.
2. Complete and return the Code of Ethics.
3. Provide two certified copies of ID (for Child protection register check).
4. Provide full address and contact details (for Child protection register check).
5. As soon as is practical, attend Child Safeguarding training

By submitting these forms, you are giving us permission to complete a background check/police clearance should we deem it necessary.

## **Personal information Required (include with certified ID copies)**

Full names:

Surname:

Physical Address:

Postal Address:

Telephone Number:

Alias or nickname:

ID number:

Passport number: