



Policy Statement

November 2017 (Revised Feb 2023)

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.

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 Gracefields 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 interest of a child is of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child.
- No person whose name appears in Part B of the National Child Protection Register or on the Sexual Offenders 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 Gracefields Church, Fish Hoek, it must be established whether or not that person's name appears in Part B of the National Protection Register and on the Sexual Offenders Register.
- Any worker and volunteer worker at Gracefields 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 our rector Murray Anderson (0847070561) who will escalate it to the necessary Authorities.

Emergency numbers:

Childline: 080 005 5555

Social Services: 011 355 7687

Fish Hoek SAPS: 021 7842700

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. 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. Gracefields 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:

- Be in attendance at Gracefields Church for at least 6 months.
- Read this policy.
- Complete and return the Code of Ethics.
- Provide two certified copies of ID (for Child Protection Register check).
- Provide full address and contact details (for Child Protection Register Check).
- Get a Police Clearance and Sexual Offenders Registry Clearance from The Guardian as soon as a session can be arranged.
- As soon as is practical, attend Child Safeguarding training.