

Sample Abuse Prevention Policies & Procedures

Developed By:

PRAESIDIUM

Our Passion. Your Protection.

Indemnity Statement

Praesidium provides Sample Policies and Procedures to assist in the prevention of organizational abuse. However, it must be noted that no system can guarantee prevention of abuse. This information is not legal advice, either expressed or implied. Consultation with qualified legal counsel is recommended.

When all recommendations are implemented and maintained, a risk for abuse continues to exist, as the problem of abuse is pervasive and no system to date can assure complete safety.

Accordingly, **PRAESIDIUM MAKES NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING WARRANTIES OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND MERCHANTABILITY, REGARDING THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF THE PRAESIDIUM SAMPLE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IN PREVENTING OR REDUCING THE INCIDENCE OF ABUSE**

Providing a compassionate response to survivors

Be Ready

- Designate a victim assistance coordinator.
- Understand the dynamics of disclosure and why survivors sometimes take years to come forward.
- Understand that certain aspects of the survivor's recollection of events may be fuzzy but that does not mean the survivor is not credible.
- Ensure your organization's response plan includes outreach to those affected.

Once a Survivor has been Identified

- Proactively reach out and offer to meet. If they don't want to meet, ask what would be most helpful to them. What would they like to see happen as a result of coming forward?
- Don't be afraid to apologize for what happened in the past
- Ask how you can support them. Don't assume you know what they want and why.
- Consider offering resources.
- Tailor the resources to fit the needs of those affected (i.e. counseling or pastoral assistance).
- Be clear with the survivor about your reporting requirements

When Meeting with a Survivor

- Listen and be compassionate
- Tell the survivor they were right to come forward
- Avoid expressing shock or outrage
- Let the survivor know you believe them
- Assure the survivor the abuse was not their fault
- Provide confidence that youth protection is your highest priority
- Avoid questions that could make the survivor feel responsible (i.e. Why did it take so long for you to report?)
- Follow reporting requirements