

Guidelines for dealing with CSA SA in Middle Tennessee

Aug 22

Guidelines for Elders/Wives dealing with CSA/SA

1. Any allegations of CSA/SA amongst our fellowship meetings will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement immediately.
2. With a single allegation, all elders will be contacted immediately.
3. The alleged perpetrator will be immediately told not to attend any meetings.
4. Ministers in the field will then be notified, though they will not be involved in the initial process of hearing the allegations or reporting it to authorities.
5. Any victims who decide to come forward or anyone with concerns can talk with any elder/elder's wife. They do not need to go to the elder/elder's wife where they usually attend fellowship meetings if they are more comfortable talking to someone else. Certainly, a victim may also be more comfortable talking to someone other than an elder/elder's wife initially.
6. Victims can report to authorities first then inform/discuss with the elder/elder's wife as appropriate.
7. If a CSA/SA abuser – convicted or with allegations – moves to the area, the meeting in the area will not be polled to see if everyone is comfortable adding this abuser to the meeting. Rather, those who wish to have a bible study or

meeting with this abuser may form a study group with those interested.

8. Every elder/elder's wife will take the Ministry Safe course every two years.
9. For reference, Child Abuse Hotline (CSA): TN (877) 237-0004 and KY (877) 597-2331, Sexual Assault (SA) call 1-800-656-HOPE (4673).

Guidelines for Middle Tennessee fellowship meetings:

1. The fellowship meetings will be a safe place – meaning no known convicted or accused abusers of CSA/SA will be allowed attendance at fellowship meetings.
2. Any elder and/or their wife will listen to an accusation or concern of CSA/SA from their respective meeting and will aid in reporting it to the authorities as warranted and legally required. (Any accusations/concerns can be made either to the elder or their wife or both together depending on situation and comfort level. Accusations/concerns can be made to the elder or wife of another meeting if more comfortable.)
3. Known offenders in the area will be shared with the elders and their individual meetings. Ministers will be informed of further communication to be disbursed.
4. If you have children, please be aware of safe parenting to add another layer of safety to their welfare.
5. Elders will make every effort to seat families together during the fellowship meetings.
6. Elders will notify meeting attendees of friends and/or ministers visiting from other states/areas.
7. For those visiting the meeting, elders will inform the visitor that there are children in the meeting and express that we have a zero-tolerance policy for CSA/SA.