

St Louis Elder CSA SA Protocol

June 2023

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All the elders and their wives in the St. Louis. MO field had a meeting last Sunday evening and agreed upon a written protocol to deal with known and suspected CSA/SA perpetrators in their field. They have all graciously agreed to allow this information to be disseminated to fellowship members outside of their own meetings.

All are in agreement that with any single allegation, all elders will be contacted immediately.

The local law enforcement authorities will also be immediately contacted regarding the allegation, and the alleged perpetrator will be immediately removed from fellowship, to include all fellowship meetings of any type in the St. Louis area.

Workers in the field will also be contacted, but the workers will not be involved in the initial process of hearing the allegation or reporting it to authorities.

Any victim who decides to come forward can talk with any elder or any elder's wife. They don't need to go to the elder or his wife where they usually attend fellowship meeting, if they are more comfortable talking to someone else.

We hope that the courage, initiative, and unity that this group of elders and wives have shown in such a large city can act as an encouragement, catalyst, and model for others around the continent and world as we continue forward.

Attached below is the actual written communication to be distributed to the individual St. Louis fellowship meeting members:

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1. The fellowship meetings will be a safe place. No known abusers will be allowed.
 2. Known abusers in the St Louis area will be shared with the elders and their individual meetings. (Workers will be informed for further communication to be dispersed)

3. Any elder or their wife will listen to an accusation and will report it. (No one accusing someone should feel they have to report to one or the other as some might only feel comfortable talking to a woman and not a man)