

# Policy 14: SafeR Church

## Policy Statement

- 14.1. The Parish will never compromise its obligation to promote and protect the well-being of individuals, in particular children, youth, and other vulnerable people, by putting the interests of any individual, or its own interests, ahead of those of an individual who has made an allegation or disclosure of abuse, or who, it is suspected, has been abused.

## Application

- 14.2. This policy will apply to every relevant aspect of this Parish's life, including its Intangibles, Governance, and Ministries. Every individual in this Parish is subject to this policy.

## Implementation

- 14.3. If an individual who has been convicted of a civil or criminal abuse-related offense wishes to participate in the life of the Parish, the Parish will carefully consider what participation might and should include or exclude, seeking to extend the love of Christ and opportunities for reconciliation and restoration to that individual, but without undermining or compromising the Parish's primary obligation to take active measures to protect people who are vulnerable.
- 14.4. The Parish will heed requirements established by the Diocese of NS/PEI in matters related to abuse prevention and response.
- 14.5. The Parish will cooperate with and report to any authorities any investigation of allegations, reports, disclosures, or suspicions of abuse in the Parish.
- 14.6. The Parish will not initiate or undertake an internal investigation of an allegation, suspicion, report, or disclosure of abuse of a child or youth, until the civil authorities have made a final disposition in the matter and have indicated that it is appropriate for the Parish to undertake such an investigation.
- 14.7. The SafeRChurch Committee will create and implement an ongoing SafeR Church Plan which outlines the specific abuse response and prevention measures in relation to its Ministries, Governance, and Intangibles.