

NWIL District Abuse Reporting Procedure

The Church of the Nazarene has adopted a zero-tolerance policy for sexual misconduct and inappropriate behavior with minors. All workers, leaders, and pastoral staff are to be above reproach in their conduct and to act in the best interest of others. This requires not only that they themselves refrain from engaging in any abusive or suspicious behavior involving minors; they will also be required to report without delay to the proper authorities anyone seen engaging in such behavior.

--Board of General Superintendents, Church of the Nazarene.

We are determined to prevent abuse from happening during any of our camping ministries. We are also committed to appropriately responding to any instances of abuse reported to us by a victim, whether that abuse happened at camp or elsewhere.

In addition to the nationally applicable abuse prevention training every camp worker completes at www.nazarenesafe.org, each worker is also required to read, sign, and adhere to these abuse reporting procedures in keeping with the Illinois Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.¹

This document instructs Northwestern Illinois District camp workers how to respond to instances of abuse either observed by the worker or reported to the worker by the victim.

If a child has been the victim of a crime while at camp or is in imminent danger, 911 should be called immediately. If a child reports abuse, the Abuse Reporting Procedures outlined below will govern our response.

Abuse Reporting Procedure

Every adult worker at camp is considered by the Church of the Nazarene to be a mandated reporter. "Mandated reporters are required to call the (Illinois Child Abuse) Hotline when they have **reasonable cause to believe** that a child known to them in their professional or official capacity may be an abused or neglected child. The Hotline worker will determine if the information given by the reporter meets the legal requirements to initiate an investigation."² 1-800-25-ABUSE.

The adult worker does not need permission from anyone else to make a call to the Hotline but is required to notify the Camp Director immediately upon making the call. If the adult worker desires help in achieving clarity about the situation before making the call, the Camp Director is the only person with whom the adult worker will talk. In order to protect the confidentiality of the child, the adult worker will discuss with no one but the Hotline worker, civil authorities, and the Camp Director. The Camp Director will discuss with no one but the District Superintendent (or their designated contact). *Under no circumstances should the camper or the camper's family ever be informed who reported the event.* If the hotline worker determines that the report meets the criteria for opening an investigation, the worker in cooperation with the camp director will supply written confirmation of their verbal report within 48 hours. (see the appropriate form in Appendix D of the Manual for Mandated Reporters.)

Non-adult workers will report immediately and only to the camp director. In the event of a disagreement between the non-adult worker and the camp director regarding whether a call should be made, the camp director will err on the side of making the call.

In addition to completing the www.nazarenesafe.org abuse prevention training, I have read and agree to follow the above procedures. If I have further questions, I will consult the DCFS Mandated Reporter Manual May 2015 Revised Edition and/or ask the Camp Director.³

Print Name: _____ Sign Name: _____

Date: _____

¹ <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1460&ChapterID=32>

² "Guidelines for Calling the Child Abuse Hotline" Manual for Mandated Reporters May 2015 Revised Edition. Illinois Department of Child and Family Services. https://www.illinois.gov/dcf/safekids/reporting/Documents/cfs_1050-21_mandated_reporter_manual.pdf

³ Manual for Mandated Reporters May 2015 Revised Edition. Illinois Department of Child and Family Services. https://www.illinois.gov/dcf/safekids/reporting/Documents/cfs_1050-21_mandated_reporter_manual.pdf