

Proposed Youth Protection Minute

(December, 2015)

The safety of our children is paramount to us. These guidelines set forth here seek to ensure that the children and youth of our Meeting enjoy the fellowship, support, and educational experience of participating in all Meeting activities in a safe environment. Some of the wording of the minute was chosen with an eye towards retaining our current level of Sexual Misconduct insurance.

Except for activities that the Meeting has designated as “counseling or one-on-one mentorship situations”, we require that during Children’s Religious Education and any other Meeting-sponsored activity involving minors (anyone under 18 years of age) there be two adults present who have been “qualified” to serve in a supervisory role.

In order to be qualified, an adult must be at least 18 years old, have been involved in LJMM for at least six months, and have completed and signed our application form. This form gives the Meeting permission to conduct a criminal background check on the applicant. It also asks the applicant to affirm that he or she will discuss with a member of Nominating Committee any psychiatric/mental disorders or conditions that could conceivably affect the applicant’s ability to care for the youth. Members of Nominating Committee will, to the best of their abilities, preserve privacy but will adhere to any laws regarding mandated reporting. The application forms shall be retained by Nominating Committee.

All adult employees, all officers of the Meeting, all members of Children’s Religious Education Committee, and anyone who performs counseling or one-on-one mentoring of minors should apply to become qualified, as well as any other adult who wishes to do so.

Whenever possible, two adults or a close relative or custodial adult of the child should be present with each child or group of children. In particular, if minors go to the cottage during Joys and Concerns or during Announcements, it is the responsibility of all Members (not just those on the Children’s Education Committee) to ensure there are at least two adults present in the cottage. If the “two adult” rule cannot be followed, such as when a minor needs to use a restroom, the attendant adults should remain attentive to the potential for harm.

If there is an event (such as a wedding) at the Meetinghouse sponsored by an outside group that includes minors, there should be at least two qualified adults from our Meeting present.

Children’s Religious Education Committee is asked to consider including material to help our youth recognize and speak up about inappropriate or abusive behavior.

Should a claim or allegation of abuse or sexual misconduct involving a minor take place, the Response Plan given below will be followed.

Response Plan

If a misconduct claim or allegation involving a minor occurs, the following steps will be taken as soon as possible (not necessarily in this order):

- Civil authorities will be notified, and the Meeting will comply with the state's requirements regarding mandatory reporting of abuse. The Meeting will fully cooperate with the investigation of the incident by civil authorities
- The parent or guardian of the child will be notified.
- The person alleged to be the perpetrator of the abuse or misconduct will be instructed to remain away from the premises during the investigation.
- Our insurance company will be notified, and the Meeting will complete an incident report. Any documents received relating to the incident and/or allegations will immediately be forwarded to the insurance company.
- If anyone is contacted by the media, the Clerk or someone designated by Ministry and Oversight will serve as our spokesperson. The spokesperson should consult with our insurance agent. All other members and attenders should refrain from speaking to the media.
- M&O will arrange for counseling for those who desire it, including both the alleged victim and the alleged perpetrator.
- Any person who is not found innocent through our discernment will be removed from their position working with minors.