

# CHILD PROTECTION POLICY FACT SHEET

The USA Child Protection Policy was approved by the International Board of Trustees on September 20, 1996 and revised May 2006, January 2007, May 2007, May 2009, September 2009, September 2010

Child abuse is defined as any verbal or sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or infliction of injury. Examples of sexual abuse are: rape, incest, sodomy, lewd or lascivious behavior which includes wrong types of speech or touching.

In order to protect the child from abuse and our workers from false accusations, the following steps must be taken:

1. Volunteers (who come in contact with minors), paid staff and board/committee members must be screened by interview prior to serving with Child Evangelism Fellowship®.
2. All workers (paid and volunteer) must be trained in the Child Protection Policy by hearing or viewing a USA Ministries *Protecting Today's Child* presentation.
3. All workers (paid and volunteer) must read, understand and sign a statement agreeing to follow the policies and procedures concerning child protection and reporting as prescribed by USA Ministries.
4. Children should not be left unsupervised while in our care.
5. Two CEF® workers (paid or volunteer) must be present at any CEF activity or ministry setting where children are present.
6. Even when ministry to children is not taking place, an additional adult or minor must be present when two workers are together and one is a minor, unless the minor's parent has signed a waiver.
7. All rooms used by adults and minors together must be accessible (no locked doors) and with open visibility (a window in the door or the door left wide open).
8. Supervisory personnel must make random visits of CEF sponsored activities.
9. Overnight activities sponsored by CEF involving minors must be approved by the local or state director and the local committee or state board.
10. All suspicious or inappropriate behavior between a CEF worker (paid and volunteer) and a minor must be reported to supervisory staff and investigated immediately.

Unless specified the following must be completed for volunteers who come in contact with minors, for paid staff and board/committee members:

- a. Employment application form (paid staff only).
- b. Confidential Screening Form.
- c. Request for Background Check Authorization.
- d. Conduct criminal background check.
- e. Conduct personal interview.
- f. Review *Protecting Today's Child* presentation.
- g. Read Child Protection Policy.
- h. Check personal and church references from Confidential Screening Form (for all paid staff, camp and overnight activities staff).

## Criminal Background Check Requirements

- Volunteers (15 years old and older)
  - Minimum requirement
    - National Criminal Database Search
    - National Sex Offender Registry Search
    - Social Security Number Address History Trace
  - If your legal jurisdiction requires more, you must also comply with their requirements.
  - Volunteers must show a government issued ID (e.g., driver's license).
- Staff (15 years old and older)
  - Minimum requirement
    - National Criminal Database Search
    - National Sex Offender Registry Search
    - SSN Address History Trace
    - State check for all addresses in past five years

## Criminal Background Check Screening Rules

Check reference in cases where the applicant has a criminal record or other red flag that does not necessarily disqualify them from participation in CEF Ministries.

The following would prevent a person from working with *CEF*:

- Any crime against children. No exemptions will be granted.
- Any sex crime of any type. No exemptions will be granted.
- Any felony convictions. Exemptions require the approval of the district director or associate director.
- Exemption reports must be filed with the vice president of USA Ministries.

## Rescreening Requirements

- The background check must be rerun for any workers who have not been active within one year.
- Every five years a background check must be rerun.
- The *Protecting Today's Child* presentation should be reviewed annually.
- For a worker transferring to another area, the Screening Procedure Checklist with the transfer information completed needs to be obtained from his former location. If the background screening was conducted more than five years prior, the transferred worker should be processed as you would a new worker.

## Ensuring Compliance

- The local committee chairman is responsible for ensuring compliance with the Child Protection Policy within his local chapter. Each year the local committee chairman will validate compliance by signing the Child Protection Policy Compliance Verification Form and sending it to the state board chairman.
- The state board chairman is responsible for ensuring compliance with the Child Protection Policy yearly, within his state. Yearly, the state board chairman will confirm compliance by signing the Child Protection Policy Compliance Verification Form for the state and sending it to USA Ministries.

- USA Ministries will monitor to ensure 100% compliance with this policy.

## Reporting Obligations

When anyone who is employed by Child Evangelism Fellowship® has reasonable suspicion that a minor is being abused by a *CEF* employee or volunteer, or is himself accused, or someone whose action would reflect on *CEF* is accused, the following action must be taken:

- **Call USA Ministries as soon as possible and within 24 hours. Notify your next higher office that this step has been taken.**
- Any person suspected of child abuse will, upon request, voluntarily relinquish or be removed from duties which involve direct contact with minors until the matter is completely resolved.
- USA Ministries will give counsel regarding the future ministry of the accused staff member or volunteer.

**WARNING:** Failure to follow reporting procedures of USA Ministries may result in termination of all *CEF* workers responsible in this reporting process.

Notwithstanding any statement herein, all *CEF* staff and volunteers shall fully abide by all state child abuse reporting requirements.



## Background Check Authorization

**Release Authorization:**

1. In connection with my future involvement as a staff member or a volunteer working with children, I understand that CEF® will conduct a background check to determine my ability to minister in this role. It may include information concerning my character, work habits, performance and any court records that may have a bearing on my job responsibilities.
2. I acknowledge that a telephonic facsimile (fax) or photocopy shall be as valid as the original.
3. I hereby authorize, without reservation, any law enforcement agency, institution, information service bureau, employer, church or non-profit organization, reference, or insurance company contacted by CEF or its consumer reporting agency or its agents, to furnish the information described above.
4. I understand that if any of those records contains information which is used to deny my employment in Child Evangelism Fellowship®, I will be notified of my rights and where I can obtain a copy of the information.

By signing below, you hereby release *Child Evangelism Fellowship* and its agents, officials, representatives, or assigned agencies, including officers, employees, or related personnel both individually and collectively, from any liability for damages of whatever kind, which may at any time result to you, your heirs, family, or associates because of compliance with this authorization and request to release information. You may be contacted as indicated below. A copy of this authorization (if not previously destroyed in accordance with record retention policies) will be given to you, provided you request it in writing.

The information contained in this screening form is correct to the best of my knowledge. I authorize any references listed on this application to give you any information (including opinions) they may have regarding my character and fitness for children’s work. I hereby release any individual, church, youth organization, employer, charity, reference, or any other person or organization, both individually or collectively, from any and all liability for damages of whatever kind or nature which may at any time result to me, my heirs or my family on account of compliance or any attempts to comply with this authorization, excepting only the communication of knowingly false information.

As a volunteer or paid worker for Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc. I agree to abide by the Child Protection Policy and to refrain from unscriptural conduct in the performance of my services on its behalf.

I have read the Child Protection Policy and viewed ([www.cefonline.com/childprotection](http://www.cefonline.com/childprotection)) or heard (866-878-4182) the “Protecting Today’s Child” 11-minute presentation and agree to follow the policies and procedures in handling any child abuse situation that may arise.

I further state that I have read carefully the foregoing release and know the contents thereof. This is a legally binding agreement which I have read and understand.

Applicant’s Signature	(Print Name)	Date
Parent’s Signature (If applicant is a minor)	(Print Name)	Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Identity confirmed with government issued photographic identification. <b>Signature</b> of witness to photographic identification	<b>(Print name)</b>	Date

All information acquired will be used within the *Child Evangelism Fellowship* organization as it pertains to employment or volunteer work with children unless signified otherwise in writing upon completion of this form.

*A different form may be required by the reporting agency or state government agency you are using.*

Please return all paperwork to the following address:

4 West Main St., PO Box 575, Taylors, SC 29687

Date I watched the Bloodborne Pathogens video (if in Pickens Co. only) \_\_\_\_\_