

Child Protection Protocols for River's Edge Church – 2019

1. **You are not allowed to be alone with a child at any time**, unless this child is your **own or a close relative**. **Always have another unrelated adult with you, (e.g. not your spouse, sister)** OR have other children with you. *Refer to the Code of Conduct.*
2. **You cannot take children to the toilet alone.** Take another unrelated adult with you to direct the child to the toilet. Check the toilets do not have other adults inside before directing the child to go in. Do not assist the child with toileting unless the age of the child means assistance is required. In such instances, ensure you are accountable to another unrelated adult. Document any concerns/incidents you have, if you need to assist children with toileting.
3. **You cannot actively seek touching or hugging from children or have children sit on your lap.** You cannot wrestle with or tickle children. Children seeking hugs should not be rejected but hugs are to be to the side and not prolonged. Respond appropriately to expressions of affection by limiting touch to safe zones of upper arms or shoulders and to commonly accepted public expressions of friendship. *Refer to the code of conduct.*
4. **You may not counsel or pray with children alone.** Any altar or follow-up ministry with children must be done in the full view of others. *Refer to the code of conduct*
5. **You may not hit or yell at any child.** Always expect a parent/guardian to deal with a child's behavior. Make positive requests of children should you need to. For example: "Let's do this now" is more positive than "Do you want to do this?"
6. **You must not photograph or video children, or upload photos or video of children to any social media or internet forum without parental consent.**
7. **You must report any behavior you think is inappropriate by any other person in regards to children.** Child abuse is a crime and we must not try to cover it up in the hope of not bringing disgrace to the church. The most appropriate person to report information of this nature is to our child protection officer, or Executive/ Senior Pastor.