

REPORTING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT OF A MINOR

AGE 17 YEARS OR YOUNGER

Any incident involving physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of a minor (0-17 years) requires you as a clergy person and/or adult who lives in Texas to make a report to the authorities. You are legally obligated by Texas State Law to report without delegating this responsibility within 48 hours. This includes minor upon minor abuse.

Make a report to either the local police (especially if at risk of being around the accused offender) or to the 24 hour Texas Child Abuse Hotline (800)252-5400.

It is NOT your responsibility to investigate before reporting, but to report what you have become aware of to the authorities and let them do the investigation.

The best practice is to make the report as soon as you are done meeting with the complainant, family, or person bringing awareness, even if they or anyone else states that they have reported to the authorities and/or filed a complaint.

After this, you need to inform the Senior Pastor and/or District Superintendent immediately. If any church staff are involved, including clergy or prominent leadership, the SPRC will need to be informed as well.

For more assistance, please contact the Crisis Response Team at greenwell@ntcumc.org or (972)526-5000.