

Model Policies for Safe Ministries - FAQ

What are they?

An updated and expanded set of policies, recommended practices and resources designed to foster healthy and sustainable ministry with vulnerable people in The Episcopal Church (TEC). The purpose of these policies is to create safe and welcoming space for the minors, elders, and people with disabilities in and those engaged in ministry with them, in all of the congregations, institutions, organizations, schools and agencies of each diocese.

Why are they needed?

In response to the mandates of 2015 General Convention resolutions A073 and A074, these policies reflect what The Episcopal Church (TEC) has learned from using the 2004 Model Policies and Safeguarding training materials. In addition, they include updates reflecting contemporary concerns such as social media, mission trips, pilgrimages, camp and conference center programs, and other overnight events, as well as experiences of LGBTQ+ and non-binary persons.

Who needs to read, mark and inwardly digest the Model Policies?

All clergy, and lay people who minister with minors and vulnerable adults need to know the model policies and comply with their screening and training requirements; parents, caregivers and vestry members are encouraged to understand the policies and exercise leadership in their implementation.

What's in them for me?

Look for a **concise statement of theological and ethical foundations** for safe church practices, useful **definitions, behavioral standards** designed to ensure that vulnerable people and all who engage in ministry with them are treated with dignity and respect in all settings, standards for **screening, training and monitoring** lay and ordained ministers working with vulnerable people, processes for **responding to concerns**, expectations for local (diocesan) **policy implementation and audit**. In addition, these model policies include entirely new practices and guidelines for the use of **social media and electronic communication**.

Is there training to support the Model Policies?

Funding for a comprehensive training program has been proposed to General Convention; please encourage your deputies to support this resolution.

When do the Model Policies take effect?

They are available for your use right now, and all dioceses need to adopt the policies by January 2019. Be sure to confer with your diocesan leadership about local adaptation and implementation.

Where can I find the Model Policies?

<https://www.forma.church/blog/new-model-policies-for-safeguarding-gods-children/>