



Sachse First UMC Project Safe Church Volunteer Fact Sheet

In order to help ensure the safety of our youth and children, Sachse First UMC has implemented Project Safe Church. In recent years, there have been increasing reports of crimes against children being committed by employees or volunteers of organizations to which the victims belong. A church is no place to be afraid as a child. Parents should not have to worry about the safety of children who are involved in church activities. In order to protect our children from predators and to help give parents peace-of mind, Sachse First as a Safe Church conducts criminal background checks on all employees and volunteers who may be in direct supervision of the children.

Project Save Church is being conducted in concert with the *North Texas Conference of Untied Methodist Church's* Criminal Background Policy. The North Texas Conference is the regional governing body of the United Methodist Church. All ordained clergy have a background check conducted by the conference. In addition, the conference encourages local churches to conduct background checks on all non-ordained staff and volunteers.

For whom do we do Background Checks?

Sachse First conducts a background check on all staff and volunteers who may be in direct, individual supervision of children. This includes Sunday School Teachers, Bible School Teachers, Activity coordinators, Youth Group Sponsors, Carpool and Bus drivers, or any other volunteer who may be in direct supervision of children in church sponsored activities.

How do we conduct background checks?

The North Texas Conference has contracted with Trak-1 Technology to provide a secure online interface to conduct background checks. This is the same system used by the conference to conduct background checks on clergy.

How does it work?

For volunteers, Sachse First conducts an Instant check. This check looks at a comprehensive national criminal records database. To conduct this check, the church only requires the individual's legal name, date of birth, drivers license number and social security number. Results from this check are available immediately.

For what crimes would a volunteer be disqualified from working with youth?

Sex-related offenses, murder and felony theft/burglary/robbery, and offenses involving violence against or abuse of children would result in automatic disqualification. Other crimes may result in disqualification at the discretion of the church. The church would consider a

number of factors including severity of the offense, length of time since the offense occurred, and likelihood of rehabilitation in deciding whether an offense should result in disqualification.

Is it possible to appeal a disqualification?

Yes. In the event of a possibly disqualifying offense, the individual may consult with the pastor to request an appeal. The pastor would then appoint an appeal board to consider whether to disqualify the individual.

How is the background check information handled?

Sachse First makes every attempt to ensure that all information gathered to conduct a background check, as well as the results of the check are kept confidential. The Senior Pastor conducts the background checks and stores the results in a locked safe. Access to all resulting documentation is strictly controlled. This list only contains those individuals who have been approved. It does not contain information on any individual whose check is pending or who has been disqualified.

How can I get more information about Sachse First's Background Check Policy?

The complete text of the policy is available to individuals on request. The Senior Pastor can provide you with a copy of the policy to review.

The purpose of Project Save Church is to help ensure that children will not be targets for crime while involved in activities sponsored by Sachse First UMC. In addition, we hope to provide assurance to parents that their children are safe while in the church's care. This environment of safety enables the work of the church to promote the spiritual development of our children.

Please return your completed form to the church office for processing.



**YOUTH AND CHILDREN WORKER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
AND CRIMINAL HISTORY/BACKGROUND CHECK CONSENT FORM
IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT**

As an applicant to volunteer in service to Sachse First UMC, I hereby agree to abide by the "Policies for Working with Youth and Children at Sachse First UMC."

Additionally, I hereby certify that: 1) I am not one who has ever, or currently, abuses children or youth, including but not limited to abusing them sexually; and 2) I do not have a paraphiliac diagnosis (e.g. pedophilia, exhibitionism, and voyeurism).

Furthermore, I hereby grant ongoing consent, as a condition of my volunteer service, to allow the church to utilize a third party service to conduct a criminal history check. My signing and submission of this application certifies my consent and my participation, as a volunteer constitutes continued consent to future use of this authorization. I understand that any record of criminal history is likely to be revealed by this check. Further, I understand that criminal history may disqualify me from volunteer service.

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Name or initial _____

Address _____

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy) _____ *Gender _____ *Race _____

Social Security _____ Drivers License _____

*To be used as supplementary identifying information in cases where name and birthday do not uniquely identify an individual.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ALL INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND CONSENT FORM IS TRUE, CORRECT AND COMPLETE. IF ANY INFORMATION PROVES TO BE INCORRECT OR INCOMPLETE, I UNDERSTAND THAT GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION FROM VOLUNTEER SERVICE WILL EXIST AND MAY BE USED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHURCH.

Signed _____ day of _____, 20_____

APPLICANT (print name) _____

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE _____

The background check cost \$9.00. Donations to underwrite are appreciated.