

Child Protection Policies

What is child abuse?

Child abuse is defined as any verbal or sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or serious physical injury that is not explained by the available medical history as accidental. Examples of sexual abuse are rape, incest, sodomy, lewd, or lascivious behavior, which includes wrong types of touching. Examples of verbal abuse are excessive yelling, berating, ridicule, or verbal assault intentionally directed at the child.

How It Affects You

In The Gap is committed to train children how to develop character, model integrity, be positive leaders, and passionately love Jesus Christ. Because child abuse goes against God's Word and is prevalent in our society, we take extra care to avoid any appearance of misconduct and to operate with the highest level of integrity in all of our dealings with the children. In an effort to protect the children we work with and also to protect our volunteers and staff from false accusations, In The Gap has outlined the following course of action to prevent and properly deal with child abuse issues.

Interacting with Children: Prevention Policies

Never be alone with a child, whether in a room or outside. Leave doors wide open. Do not go somewhere that could appear to be isolated. Always be within sight and in close proximity to others. Do not solicit physical contact from the children. Pray and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings and cautions in specific situations.

Interacting with Children: Notification Policies

All child neglect and child abuse-related matters must be reported to In The Gap administration immediately. Under no circumstances should 24 hours pass before notifying a higher authority. If you observe or have reasonable suspicion that an In The Gap staff member or volunteer, parent, guardian, neighbor, relative, or any other person is abusing a child, you are required to inform the In The Gap Executive Director, Chad Christiansen (405-748-0712), immediately. An official report will be filed within the next 24 hours.

If you are accused of abusing a child, call the In The Gap office (405-748-0712) immediately to report the incident. In The Gap is required by law to report suspected abuse to the Department of Human Services (DHS). Anyone who is suspected or accused of child abuse will voluntarily relinquish or be removed from all involvement with children until the director of In The Gap considers the matter to be resolved.