

# SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Life Essence Ministries

## SAFEGAURDING

### KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

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## 1. Purpose

Life Essence Ministries is committed to creating safe, caring, and respectful environments for prayer ministry and pastoral support.

We recognise that safeguarding is embedded in every part of our ministry, not treated as a separate activity or optional extra.

Everyone involved in the ministry has a responsibility to help protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults from harm.

This policy sets out our shared commitment to act wisely, compassionately, and consistently in all safeguarding matters.

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## 2. Our Commitment

We believe every person is created in God's image and deserves dignity, respect, and compassionate care.

- **Promoting wellbeing** by fostering a ministry culture that supports safety, kindness, and care.
  - **Working trauma-informed** so that we respond gently, thoughtfully, and with awareness of past hurt.
  - **Protecting vulnerable people** by recognising risk and taking appropriate action when concerns arise.
  - **Responding to concerns** promptly, seriously, and in line with safeguarding procedures.
  - **Working with integrity** through honesty, accountability, and faithful stewardship of trust.
  - **Creating safe environments** where prayer ministry can be offered with care, wisdom, and consent.
  - **Valuing every person** regardless of background, age, ability, or personal circumstance.
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### 3. Scope

This policy applies to everyone acting on behalf of Life Essence Ministries in any capacity.

- **Leaders**
  - **Volunteers**
  - **Prayer ministry team members**
  - **Anyone representing the ministry**
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### 4. Safeguarding Principles

Our safeguarding approach is grounded in a clear commitment to care, wisdom, and responsibility.

- **Safety first:** we prioritise the physical, emotional, and spiritual safety of every person.
  - **Respecting dignity and consent:** we honour each person's voice, boundaries, and choices.
  - **Working within competence:** we only offer support and ministry within our training and abilities.
  - **Appropriate accountability:** we remain open to oversight, guidance, and review.
  - **Healthy boundaries:** we keep relationships clear, professional, and trustworthy.
  - **Listening without judgement:** we make space for people to speak and be heard with care.
  - **Taking concerns seriously:** we respond promptly and responsibly to anything that may indicate harm.
  - **Seeking support when required:** we involve the right people and external agencies where appropriate.
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## 5. Responsibilities

Leaders and volunteers are expected to uphold safeguarding standards in every part of their service.

- **Promoting safety culture** by helping create an environment where people feel respected, heard, and protected.
- **Acting with integrity** in a honest, accountable, and trustworthy manner at all times.
- **Maintaining boundaries** to ensure relationships remain appropriate, clear, and professional.
- **Reporting concerns promptly** when something raises worry or may indicate harm.

- **Working within role limits** by only offering support that is within training, competence, and authority.
  - **Seeking support whenever** guidance, oversight, or further action is needed.
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## 6. Confidentiality and Its Limits

We value confidentiality and will treat personal information with care and discretion. Anything shared in ministry will be handled respectfully and only with those who need to know for safeguarding or pastoral reasons. However, confidentiality has limits where safety or legal responsibilities are involved.

However, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed where there are concerns regarding:

- **Risk of harm to self**
- **Risk of harm to others**
- **Abuse or neglect**
- **Concerns involving children or adults at risk**
- **Situations where disclosure is required by law**

When necessary, information will be shared openly, carefully, and appropriately to protect those involved and support the right response.

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## 7. Responding to Concerns

***Every concern matters. Listen with care, respond with wisdom.***

If a safeguarding concern or disclosure is made:

- **Listen respectfully and without interruption, allowing the person to speak in their own words.**
- **Do not promise secrecy, as information may need to be shared for safety reasons.**
- **Take the concern seriously and remain calm, supportive, and attentive.**
- **Seek advice from the appropriate safeguarding lead or relevant authority as soon as possible.**
- **Contact emergency services immediately when there is an urgent risk of harm or danger.**

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## 8. Recording Concerns

Concerns should be recorded accurately, promptly, and factually so that there is a clear and reliable account of what was observed or disclosed.

Records should:

- **Be clear and objective**
  - **Avoid assumptions**
  - **Be stored securely**
  - **Be shared only with those who need to know**
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## 9. Working with Other Professionals

We recognise that safeguarding is often strengthened through partnership working and the wise involvement of other professionals. Where appropriate, we encourage individuals to seek additional support beyond prayer ministry so that their wider needs are properly cared for.

***We encourage individuals to seek holistic support for their wellbeing.***

- **GPs**
- **Counsellors and therapists**
- **Churches and pastoral teams**
- **Safeguarding agencies**
- **Emergency services**

***Prayer ministry does not replace professional support.***

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## 10. Trauma-Informed Practice

We seek to minister with gentleness, wisdom, and sensitivity, recognising that healing cannot be forced or rushed. Our role is to provide a safe and respectful environment in which people can respond at a pace that feels manageable for them.

We recognise that every individual has the right to:

- **Set their own pace**
- **Pause or stop ministry at any time**

- **Make informed choices**
  - **Be treated with dignity and respect**
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## 11. Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically to help ensure it remains appropriate, effective, and aligned with current safeguarding expectations. Updates will be made where needed to strengthen clarity, practice, and accountability.

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***"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves."***

**Proverbs 31:8**

Policy review date: June 2026

Next review due: June 2027