

## **Plan to Protect Commitment to Report Abuse**

Lamont Alliance Church commits to work with legally mandated authorities and denominational leadership to provide safety and security for all individuals in all areas of our ministry and facilities.

Anytime a real or perceived imbalance of power is used for the benefit or gain of the one with the balance of power to the detriment of the one without the balance of power, or an action is committed against an individual that violated the Criminal Code of Canada, the church must take it seriously.

1. The church will make available the denominational reporting procedure for individuals who do not have an alternative way to report abuse that occurs within the church, or where that might be an appropriate way to report abuse. A link to <https://www.cmacan.org/report-sexual-misconduct/> will be available on our website.
2. Any adult or youth church volunteer who suspects criminal abuse being committed against an individual must be reported to appropriate legal authorities. Church volunteers may contact the pastor for assistance, if appropriate, or may contact the RCMP or Provincial Children's Services on their own. If a crime has been committed, or is being committed, there is a legal obligation to contact authorities. Failure to report is a serious legal offence. If you suspect abuse of a child, you cannot wait until you find proof to report, you need to report when there is suspicion of abuse.
3. Church leadership or ministry supervisor should be informed of abuse as is appropriate. There are times where this is complicated, but the authorities receiving the report may be able to guide as to when appropriate. If there was a case of abuse among people in the church, it is advisable that the leadership knows so that the individual be removed from ministry positions while an investigation is brought about. As well, the church has a responsibility to report abuse to the denomination. However, abuse can be complicated, so there does need to be sensitivity in how this is done.
4. It is important that cases of abuse be kept as confidential as possible.
5. Make sure the one who is suspected of suffering abuse is cared for and prayed for. The person suspecting abuse should take the initiative in making sure that appropriate care is given.
6. All non church groups and individuals making use of the church's facilities or renting the church's facilities for events that include minors, must agree to this document in their rental agreement.