



Restroom Policies and Procedures

Restroom procedures are particularly sensitive because of the necessary exposure of small children to a worker. Many ministries only allow female volunteers or staff to assist small children in the restroom simply because of the statistical correlation between males and child molestation. Another problem area involves supervising children during restroom visits where no assistance is needed. This lack of supervision exposes children and youth to potential abuse by peers, as well as contact with adults in halls, common areas, and restrooms.

To properly supervise bathroom visits:

- Screened adults should accompany all children, youth, and vulnerable adults to and from the restroom.
- The adult should check the restroom to make sure that it is safe before any child, youth, or vulnerable adult enters.
- Avoid allowing a worker to be alone with a child inside the restroom.
- If assistance is required, two screened adults should be present. Prop open the door so that a second adult can visually monitor the assisting adult.

Good supervision is essential to providing a safe and secure ministry environment. A well-crafted supervision plan protects the children in your care, maintains trust, and helps organize and monitor children's activities.

Written policies ensure consistent training and follow-through. Staff and volunteers that work with children, youth, and vulnerable adults should all be working from the same playbook designed to protect children.