

Foreword -- Why SafeConduct™?

In search of a unique term to define this abuse prevention ministry, the Insurance Board has come upon the term **SafeConduct™**. Its appeal is in the dual meaning of “**conduct**” as it applies to preserving sacred space. First, we wish to nurture good “conduct” as demonstrated by **personal behaviors** that are consistent with our religious values. Second, as we might “conduct” an orchestra, we wish to “**guide**” and to “**lead**” in ministry.

Every relationship is defined by the quality of conduct. From the ethics of adult relationships, to fair uses of power, mutual support among peers, nurturing of trust and defense of vulnerable individuals, our conduct defines us as individuals and leaders.

Organizational conduct, including your safe church program, must begin with the creation of a policy and a set of procedures appropriate to your ministries. On the one hand, your policies must be comprehensive, while you must also be able to “live” them every day. The Insurance Board is pleased to provide you services that support your policies and their implementation.

While the services we provide focus on conduct in support of children and preserving sacred space, the fundamentals have application to broader concerns including ethical relationships, sexual harassment, protection of vulnerable adults, bullying, and tolerance around race, religion and sexual orientation.

Several policy resources are offered here:

- The denominations we support have published documents regarding abuse prevention programs. **Links to documents** are provided on this website.
- A **National standard for abuse prevention programs** has been articulated by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). You can find the information by going to their link on this website.
- The **resources of our partner, Praesidium, Inc.**, are also available through this website in the form of a **self-assessment** tool, sample policy language, **on-line training** programs and **background checking** services.

The information contained in this area is open to every site visitor. **On-line training and background checking services are available to all United Church of Christ, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Presbyterian Church (USA) organizations** who are participating in the IB insurance program or eligible to participate.

The services we offer here, on-line training and background checking cannot be implemented in a vacuum. They are building blocks in a solid structure of abuse prevention. Once you have created your program, it is essential that you sustain its essential activities with discipline and consistency – **SafeConduct™**.

If your organization is taking its first steps, you are beginning an important journey, one filled with certain challenges, revelations, satisfaction, and reward. We hope that you find the resources offered here valuable.

Starting *Praesidium* Services

To begin using *Praesidium* services, you must first appoint an Administrator. Your Administrator will be provided login credentials to

1. operate the *Armatus* training system and
2. enter information directly in the background checking system.

The two systems are very easy for a novice computer user to operate and can be operated in a paperless environment.

After *Armatus* users are assigned, the Administrator can track individual progress and create reports as needed.

The results of background checks are almost instantaneous. You may have access to different levels of checking based on your comfort level with maintenance of confidential information. See the ***Administrator Guide*** in the **Administrators** section of the website to help decide who should be an administrator and which level of service you desire.