



Safe Ministry Check

VOLUNTEERS AGED 13-17 YEARS



ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF SYDNEY

**CONFIDENTIAL
DECLARATION**

Name of Applicant

Parish

NOTE

This form must be completed before a person between the ages of 13 to 17 years undertakes:

- pastoral ministry that involves direct, regular and not incidental contact with children, or
- services to children that are ancillary to the exercise of pastoral ministry which involve:
 - giving spiritual advice and support, education, counselling, medical care, and assistance in times of need that involves direct, regular and not incidental contact with children;
 - participating in overnight activities such as camps; or
 - having close personal contact with children such as changing clothes, washing and toileting.

A person is not required to complete this form if they will undertake ministry to children on not more than a total of 5 occasions in a calendar year, if the ministry involves minimal direct contact with children or is supervised when children are present.

For a person under the age of 18, the Safe Ministry Check is in the form of a pledge.

Safe Ministry Pledge

The Anglican Diocese of Sydney requires that all leaders who work with children and youth adhere to the Safe Ministry Pledge.

The Safe Ministry Pledge is based on Faithfulness in Service (2017) (the Anglican Church's national code of conduct) and the Code of Conduct for Children's and Youth Ministry found in the Safe Ministry Blueprint documents.

It is expected, that as a junior leader you have read and will comply with the Safe Ministry Blueprint document that is best suited to your role (Safe Ministry Blueprint for Children's Ministry Leaders or Safe Ministry Blueprint for Youth Ministry Leaders).

By agreeing to abide by the behaviour and practices outlined in the Safe Ministry Pledge, you help to make our churches safer places for everyone.

By checking each box you acknowledge that you understand and agree to abide by the Safe Ministry Pledge as it applies to the children and youth involved in your church and its programs.

In acknowledgement of the above, I pledge to:

- Never abuse people especially children or youth, nor cultivate relationships in order to initiate or hide abuse.
- Report to the appropriate authorities any behaviour that could be considered abusive. This includes speaking to my head ministry leader about behaviour by another leader.
- Never be alone with a child or young person in my ministry role where adult leaders are not present.
- Never have any participant from the youth or children's ministry of which I am a Junior Leader to my home, or visit such a child or young person in circumstances where no adult is present, except with the permission of their parent or guardian.
- Never touch children or youth, in a manner which is inappropriate given their age, gender, cultural background, context or personal circumstances. Where I am unsure about what is appropriate I will speak to my head ministry leader first.
- Never physically discipline a child or young person in the course of my ministry.
- Never make alcohol, cigarettes or illicit drugs available to children or youth.
- Never develop special relationships with a participant in the youth or children's ministry of which I am a Junior Leader that could be seen as involving favouritism or any form of special treatment.
- Never engage in any contact with any participant in the youth or children's ministry of which I am a Junior Leader, that is secretive (whether physical or through electronic media or in any other way).
- Never use electronic communication in a manner inconsistent with the guidelines for appropriate use as set out in the Blueprint document when communicating with any participant in the youth or children's ministry of which I am a Junior Leader.
- Never become romantically involved with any participant in the youth or children's ministry of which I am a Junior Leader.
- Never take unauthorised photos, movies or recordings of anyone, especially a child or young person on church property or at church activities without church authorisation and the consent of their parents or guardians.

- Never view, possess, produce or distribute restricted material containing sexual acts or nudity; and never view, possess, produce or distribute any form of child pornography or child exploitation material.

I confirm that:

- If I have ever been accused, charged or convicted of a criminal offence or had allegations made against me in relation to abuse or misconduct, that I have disclosed this to my senior minister or the person nominated by him to administer this Safe Ministry Check form.
- I will complete the Safe Ministry training course for junior leaders every 3 years.
- If I am undertaking ministry to children at the time I turn 18, I will promptly:
 - undertake the Safe Ministry Essentials training,
 - complete the form of Safe Ministry Check for adult volunteers, and
 - obtain a Working with Children Check clearance (noting that I can apply for a WWCC from the age of 17 years and 9 months).
- I commit to read and regularly review the Safe Ministry Blueprint document best suited to my role (where your role is not identified by the Safe Ministry Blueprint you should read the Safe Ministry Blueprint for Parents and Church Members) <https://safeministry.org.au/blueprints/>
- If I fail to abide by the Safe Ministry Pledge, I will inform my senior minister or the Safe Ministry Team (the ODSM) at the earliest possible opportunity.
- I understand that any breach of the Safe Ministry Pledge may lead to me being suspended or terminated from holding any role in relation to working with children, youth or other vulnerable persons in church ministries.

Name of Applicant		
Signature of Applicant		Date

Parental Consent

Parental Consent (if the applicant is under 16 years of age)		
I consent to my child: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • being appointed as a junior leader in the parish, and • providing the above pledge in connection with their appointment. 		
Name of Parent		
Signature of Parent		Date