

# KEEPING OUR CHURCH FAMILY SAFE (Procedures – Scotland)

## FOREWORD

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Scotland is part of the British Union Conference (BUC) of churches and has adopted the Keeping Our Church Family Safe (KCFS) policy. These procedures reflect how the Church in Scotland will act to protect its children and adults at risk.

They fully accord with the law and guidance relating to the protection of children and adults at risk in Scotland.

The Keeping Our Church Family Safe procedures set out the church's guidelines relating to protecting our church family. These procedures are to be followed in order to reduce, to the minimum, the risk of abuse to the children and adults we have contact with through our paid and voluntary activities.

**Paul Tompkins**  
**Mission President**

**Ian Sweeney**  
**BUC President**

[Electronic signatures to be inserted]

## Protecting Children and Adults in Scotland

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Scotland is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk. The *National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014* states 'Religious leaders, staff and volunteers have an important role in protecting children and supporting children and families. Churches and faith communities provide carefully planned activities for children and young people, supporting families under stress, caring for those hurt by abuse in the past, and ministering to and managing those who have caused harm. It is because of these varied ministries that all reasonable steps are taken to provide a safe environment that promotes and supports the well-being of children and young people. This will include carefully selecting and appointing those who work with children and responding robustly where concerns arise'.<sup>1</sup> The Church is guided by the country's law and guidance in its commitment to protecting children and adults at risk. See Appendix 14 for full details.

Protecting children means recognising when to be concerned about their safety and understanding when and how to share these concerns, how to investigate and assess such concerns and, fundamentally, what steps are required to ensure the child's safety and well-being.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0045/00450733.pdf> pp64-5

<sup>2</sup>*National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014*