

**Cornerstone Baptist Church**  
**Short Term Mission(STM) and Partnership**  
**Policy for Interacting with Minors**

**MT-015**

**Purpose**

Cornerstone Baptist Church is committed to protecting the minors in its care while on STM and Partnership trips. Cornerstone Baptist Church has implemented the following policy for all those who serve on STM and Partnership trips.

**Scope**

All STM and Partnership trips sponsored by Cornerstone Baptist Church

**Abuse Tolerance**

Cornerstone Baptist Church has zero tolerance for abuse. It is the responsibility of every STM and Partnership team member to:

1. Act in the best interest of all minors
2. Report any inappropriate behaviors of a team member to an STM and Partnership leader and/or Mission Pastor (i.e. policy violations, neglectful supervision, poor role modeling, etc.)

**Verbal Interactions**

Verbal interactions between STM and Partnership team members and minors should be positive and uplifting. Team members are not to talk in a way that is or could be construed by a reasonable observer in any sense to be harsh, threatening, intimidating, shaming, derogatory, demeaning, humiliating or inappropriate.

**Photo Sharing**

STM and Partnership team members are to be respectful of the parents and minors we minister to on the STM and Partnership trips by not posting photos of their minor(s) online (i.e. Facebook, other social media). The exception to this would be if permission is granted by the leadership of the ministry or partnership we are serving in addition to a parent/guardian of each child in the picture.

**Two Person Rule**

For everyone's safety:

1. Two team members are to be present in each room/location at all times when a minor is present.
2. Team members are prohibited from being alone with an individual minor in any location.
3. In the event a team member finds himself/herself alone where a minor is present that team member is to leave, or take the minor to a location occupied by others, or easily observed by others.

**Physical Contact**

To promote a positive, nurturing environment while protecting minors:

1. Physical contact with a minor is to be minimal and only in the presence of other adults. Appropriate touching is to be limited to handshakes, high fives or a brief touch on the shoulder (brief “side” hugs initiated by the minor—no full contact body to body hugs).
2. Inappropriate contact/touching and/or displays of affection are forbidden (i.e. lap sitting and/or carrying a minor on the team member’s shoulders). Any inappropriate physical contact, touching or displays of affection should be immediately reported to the appropriate STM and Partnership leader.
3. Physical contact is to be for the benefit of the minor, and never be based upon the emotional needs of a team member.

**Nudity and Appropriate Dress**

Team members serving on STM and Partnership trips are never to be nude in the presence of a minor in their care (i.e. changing clothes, showering, etc.) Also, appropriate dress is required at all times. Appropriate dress is frequently dictated by the cultures we serve in and most cultures have a more conservative dress code than Americans. Team leaders will provide additional direction concerning what is and is not appropriate in the culture you are visiting.

**Sleeping Arrangements**

It is anticipated that certain STM and Partnership activities may occasionally require that overnight sleeping arrangements be made for minors and team members. Team members will observe the following rules:

1. Two adult team members must be present
2. Overnight sleeping arrangement must be submitted in writing to, and approved by the STM and Partnership leader prior to the activity. Arrangements must be signed and approved by guardian(s) of minor(s) involved.
3. As long as any minor(s) are awake, one team member must also be awake and monitoring the minor(s) to ensure safe behavior.
4. Appropriate modest sleeping attire must be worn.
5. Team members will monitor sleeping minors by periodically conducting visual bed checks to ensure that sleeping minors remain in designated places. During bed checks, team members are never to physically touch a minor.

**Revisions**

<b>Rev.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Author</b>
0	Dec. 10, 2020	Release pending Mission Team approval	Matt Maracle