

IMPORTANT NOTE TO BAPTIST CHURCHES

Resulting from the Royal Commission in to Child Sexual Abuse, requirements for insuring organisations against liability for child sexual abuse/molestation have tightened considerably.

In order to provide a continuation of Molestation Cover for your church, our Insurer, CCI, requires the church to agree to address any gaps in the policies and procedures so that as a minimum you have the policies/procedures as set out below:

1. A policy committing the organisation to providing a safe environment for children and vulnerable adults.
2. A Code of Practice covering pastors, employees and volunteers who may come into contact with children and vulnerable adults.
3. A process for screening applicants for ministry, employment and volunteering, including referee checks and working with children/criminal record checks.
4. A process for handling allegations of sexual abuse.
5. A process for complying with mandatory reporting obligations.
6. Training for pastors, employees and volunteers in the above policies/procedures.

Each State Union Office has template policies for the above. Please contact your local State Union Office to obtain these templates and tailor them to your church.

These policies must be communicated to your staff, leaders and those in ministry and members, so appropriate education across the board is implemented on an ongoing basis.

Once you have the above policies in place, please complete the attached *Implementation of Policies & Procedures Declaration* and return to your local Baptist Insurance Services Manager on insurance@baptistinsurance.com.au

The deadline for this to ensure cover is May 2020.
If you fail to meet this deadline, should a molestation claim be directed to your church, there will be no cover. All claim and defence costs will be borne by the Church.

IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES/PROCEDURES DECLARATION

Name of Church: _____

Address of Church: _____

Contact phone/email: _____ / _____

(Name of Church) _____ hereby declares that the following policies/procedures are in place:

Policy/Procedure	✓
A policy committing the organisation to providing a safe environment for children and vulnerable adults	
A Code of Practice covering clergy, employees and volunteers who may come into contact with children and vulnerable adults	
A process for screening applicants for ministry, employment and volunteering, including referee checks and working with children/criminal record checks	
A process for handling allegations of sexual abuse	
A process for complying with mandatory reporting obligations	
Training for clergy, employees and volunteers in the above policies/procedures	

(Signature)

(Name & Position in Church)

(Date)

*Email this Declaration to your local Baptist Insurance Services Manager on
insurance@baptistinsurance.com.au*