

Help Make Your Ministry a Safe Place for Children

The sexual abuse of children is a "quiet" epidemic that only comes to light when a sensational news story hits the press. The reality is that 1 in every 4 girls and 1 in every 6 boys in the United States are sexually molested before the age of 18. Ninety percent of the time, they are molested by someone they know and trust.

The LCMS Office of National Mission and the Minnesota South District take the safety of children seriously. That's why we are partnering with MinistrySafe to better educate and equip the workers in our congregations and schools to recognize the signs of child sexual abuse and to better understand the tendencies of child predators — all at no cost to our congregations and schools. You can immediately roll out the MinistrySafe Sexual Abuse Awareness program among your staff.

We want **every** staff person in **every** congregation and school in the district to commit to helping protect the children and ministries entrusted to your care.

To learn more about MinistrySafe, watch a short video at <u>ministrysafe.com/the-risk/</u>. To start the training, contact Christina Krentz at the district office: <u>christina.krentz@mnsdistrict.org</u>.

Please note: The information and template offered by the LCMS Office of National Mission is not intended to provide specific legal advice. This material is provided for informational purposes only. You are encouraged to contact your legal advisor, insurance provider and other experts to determine what policies and procedures best fit your congregation or school situation. No endorsement of the MinistrySafe program in these materials is implied or intended and the LCMS does not guarantee or warrant that sexual abuse will not happen, even if an entity decides to utilize the offered resources of the MinistrySafe program.