



Levels of Risk

In Parish and Ministry Settings

It is important to assess the level of power, authority, and control of those who minister; the level of vulnerability of those being ministered to, and the risk that harm could be committed by some form of abuse. Determining the risk level and assigning a low, medium, or high rating to each ministry is a key step in the process.

Low risk ministries

Ministry duties and responsibilities that do not permit a person to be alone with a child or vulnerable adult, or do not permit access to financial resources or confidential information. Such ministries do not require a significant level of authority or trust.

Examples: arranger of coffee fellowship, bulletin folder, flower arranger, greeter, reader, some committee and group members.

Medium risk ministries

Ministry duties and responsibilities that permit few chances for a person to be alone with a child or vulnerable adult, or permit some access to moderate amounts of financial resources or confidential information. People in these ministries are in a position of authority or trust.

Examples: adult Bible study leader, congregational or parish council member, chairperson, lay eucharist administrator, team collection counter

High risk ministries

Ministry duties and responsibilities that permit opportunities for a person to be alone with a child or vulnerable adult, or permit access to significant amounts of financial resources or sensitive and confidential information. These ministries are positions of authority or the positions that allows a persons to establish long-term relationships of trust. The following are always ranked high risk: all clergy, including honorary assistants; churchwardens; organists and music directors; parish employees; and also those involved in residential or off-site ministries with children or vulnerable adults.

Examples: Christian education coordinator, church musician, counsellor, pastoral care visitor, server instructor, Sunday school teacher, youth leader, treasurer, envelope secretary