

# Safe People, Places and Situations

The overall aim for the Screening in Faith policy is to ensure that there is a safe environment in every parish, ministry, and activity.

## Safe Environments

When we talk about screening we talk about safe people. We must not forget that it is also very important to create safe environments, that is, safe places and safe situations.

## Points to consider

- two adults are required to be present during any activity for young children or youth
- offices & activity rooms must have windows that allow an outside person to see in
- in the case of vulnerable persons, there should be two leaders or an open door
- a leader should not meet alone with a vulnerable person but should be joined by another leader if the meeting is to be private
- keep the door slightly open when accompanying a vulnerable person on the bathroom
- during diaper changing, the changing table should be in view of another nursery worker

## Safe situations

Safety doesn't apply just to children; it applies to everybody. Clergy, leaders, counsellors and other adults in the church are also vulnerable, and need to be protected. Transparency in all our dealings with others is necessary.

Some rules, that protect everyone involved:

- if a pastoral care visitor encounters a compromising situation or crisis, they should report the incident as soon as possible to the parish priest or their pastoral supervisor
- never be alone with a minor
- never be in a closed room where people cannot see in

## Vulnerable people

We take it for granted that our children, youth, and elderly are vulnerable. What is less understood is that there are other vulnerabilities that are much less obvious but nonetheless real. These might include:

- the bereaved
- both partners in troubled relationships
- the survivors of trauma
- people of any age during illness or other crisis
- members of LGBTQ+ community
- new Canadians and refugees