



FAQs

Child Safety Committee Member Recruitment

How long will the process take?

You should anticipate approximately two years to work through all 10 Best Practices, and a two-year term for Committee members. If multi-year commitments are unrealistic, try staggering shorter terms, so that more experienced, knowledgeable Committee members can work with newer ones before leaving the Committee.

How often will the Committee meet, and how much work will be required between meetings?

This is a choice made by individual Committees, which may meet bimonthly, monthly, or every two months. The commitment between meetings will also depend on your individual Committee, specifically, its size, how it delegates responsibilities, and how often it plans to meet. The outside commitment could range from no time at all to 4-5 hours between meetings.

Do I need to attend the Committee meetings in order to help?

Each Committee works differently. Some have subcommittees in order to divide the work, so you might choose to be on a subcommittee but not represent that group at larger Committee meetings. Committees may also delegate certain responsibilities, such as raising awareness in the community or working on individual projects, which would allow non-Committee members to participate as well.

Best Practice 1

Form a Child Safety Committee

Goal 1

Recruit a Child Safety Committee

OBJECTIVES

- Review questions that potential members of the Child Safety Committee may ask prior to joining the committee
- Formulate clear and consistent answers to those questions

AUDIENCE

Child Safety Committee Chair and/or professional staff

TIME

1 hour to review and adapt. Time speaking to potential Committee members and answering their questions will vary.

Will this Committee be different than other committees? Can I serve on other committees at the same time?

It is the same as other committees in that it requires teamwork, respect, and a commitment to the ideals of the committee, but it differs in that you will be carefully guided through the Committee's work by Sacred Spaces' materials. Depending upon the time commitment of this Committee and other obligations, each individual can determine how much time he or she has, but there is no reason beyond time (such as conflict of interest or other concerns) that would preclude membership on other committees.

How do I handle potential conflicts of interest, such as knowing a person involved in a policy violation or allegation of maltreatment?

Some Committees avoid conflicts of interest by keeping discussions of specific concerns or incident reports name/identity blind (at least initially), while others rely on disclosure of conflicts and recusal by the conflicted Committee member. Your board likely has a conflicts of interest policy that may include these and other strategies, which your Committee may want to adapt. Keep in mind that the Committee does not handle cases of abuse; these are reported to the authorities and external experts are brought in to advise.

What will this campaign provide that is not covered by our current policy?

Aleinu will help you integrate protocols for your current programs and operations, aligning them with best practices in child protection. As you proceed through Aleinu's Best Practices, you may discover new ideas or use them to clarify and strengthen already-existing policies. Aleinu moves beyond policy-making to encourage the implementation of safety practices and organizational culture shift. It also allows you to connect meaningfully with other organizations engaging in the same process.

What is Sacred Spaces?

Sacred Spaces is a non-profit that works to build healthy Jewish communities by partnering with Jewish institutions to prevent and respond to sexual abuse and other abuses of power. The Sacred Spaces team is comprised of experts in the field of abuse prevention and brings decades of expertise in trauma-informed support for victims, institutional best practices in safeguarding children, legal compliance in areas of child maltreatment, and the science behind creating behavioral change in large systems and organizations. The team also has a deep cultural understanding of Jewish communities and how offenders manipulate religious values to perpetrate abuse. You can learn more about Sacred Spaces and its team members at www.jewishspaces.org.