

Does a Registered Sex Offender want to participate in your congregation?

Center the perspective of the survivor and prioritize the well-being of those who have been harmed.

Assess: Reasons not to Proceed:

Are the offender's crimes frequent or significant such that safe participation is not feasible?

Has the person harmed an individual in this congregation?

Are there many survivors, children, or vulnerable people in your congregation?

Does your church have safety protocols and support practices in place for children, survivors of abuse and other vulnerable people?

Is your congregation currently processing other difficult issues and unable to address this request well?

What is your congregation's mission? Is your church called to ministry with sex offenders?

YES

Yes

YES

NO

YES

NO

YES

Your congregation is not in a position to accommodate this sex offender at this time.

If not proceeding: Inform the offender that they must seek other fellowship.

If possible, assist them in finding other fellowship options

Consider offering person feasible interactions such as virtual attendance, a small group with informed adults or off-site meetings with leaders

AGAIN: ARE YOU SURE YOUR CHURCH IS CALLED TO MINISTRY WITH SEX OFFENDERS AT THIS TIME?

Ready to Continue

YES

NO

Congregational leaders

Assess: Does your congregation have a policy in place to address this request?

YES

Congregational leaders
Contact MC USA Safe Church. Adopt a policy based on denominational resources

Congregational leaders
Assess: Is there an existing Abuse Prevention and Response Team (APRT) established to implement the policy?

Plan: Congregational leaders appoint an APRT to carry out process.

Plan: Congregational leaders form a support and accountability team who meets with offender. They are the offenders' "congregation"

Plan: APRT interprets policy for specific situation

Plan: APRT Communicate with offenders support network if possible

Plan: train support team

Plan: Congregational leaders and APRT
Communicate clearly with the congregation and all parties what to expect in the coming process. Continue communication throughout. Some vulnerable people in the congregation may no longer feel safe in your church. Some may vote with their feet.

YES

Plan: Consult with outside resources: MC USA Safe Church, Experts in sexual harm, mental health professionals

Enact: Allow offender to participate in life of congregation, as agreed to in the LAA.

- Begin accountability structures
- If offender resists limits, enact agreed upon consequences

Enact: Create a limited access agreement between offender and congregation, with stated consequences for its violation.