

## Reporting Alleged Abuse *or* Questionable Experiences at DSC Events

We take seriously the safety of children, youth, and adults participating at DSC-sponsored events. To that end we follow policies and procedures in place, such as the Conference-wide Safe Sanctuaries policy (<http://dscumc.org/safe-sanctuaries-policy>), to ensure everyone's safety and well-being.

Yet we know, even with policies or procedures in place, someone may experience an event that does not fit within our goal of providing positive Christian interactions. If you become aware of an experience that does not quite seem in keeping with our goal of providing safe spaces for people to grow in faith, here is how to respond:

### **If a participant alleges being abused at a Conference event.**

1. Per our Safe Sanctuaries policy and our legal responsibility, please have the following information ready.
  - Contact information for the individual: Name, Address, Phone Number, and what local DSC church they are a part of, if applicable;
  - What happened, where, and when.
2. Then make the following contacts.
  - Local law enforcement, and/or any agency they refer you to;
  - Superintendent of the district that the incident occurred in; and
  - The Conference Communications Director

*Please note that re-telling an abusive event can itself be traumatic. With the recognition that such narrative will be shared with the proper authorities, it is not necessarily imperative that details be gathered before making the proper contacts.*

### **If a participant alleges misconduct at a Conference event that seems to fall short of abuse but is questionable.**

Contact the Director of Camping and Retreat Ministries to initiate a complaint process. We take complaints and concerns seriously and endeavor to research and respond to them appropriately and in a timely manner. If a complaint was at an event separate from a Conference camp, the appropriate Conference staff will be alerted.

### **In cases of suspected abuse of a child or youth not at a Conference event.**

Contact your state's Children's Services as soon as possible.

- Arizona: 1-888-767-2445
- Nevada: 1-702-399-0081

Questions about these processes may be directed to the Director of Camping and Retreat Ministries, Rev. Ron Bartlow: [rbartlow@dscumc.org](mailto:rbartlow@dscumc.org) or (602) 266-6956 x.215.