

IMPORTANT SAFETY STANDARDS

As leaders/members we represent The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It is of PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE that we follow all security protocols. More than one Church leader/member has had their access to a facility be terminated permanently due to not following security protocols. If anyone from the Church has their access to a facility revoked, it can affect the entire ministry, and creates problems for all LDS volunteers at all levels.

1. Prior to the individual attending all Church meetings and Church activities, meet with them to determine any possible restrictions they may have, based on probation or parole guidelines.
2. Always listen to the Spirit and follow through with His promptings.
3. Even though some individuals have worked hard to repent, be very aware that most inmates have spent their entire lives manipulating the people around them. You will need to rely on the Spirit to determine if they are attempting to manipulate you. Do not hesitate to gently call them on this behavior if you see it happening.
4. Do not do anything for an individual that makes you uncomfortable. (DO NOT DO IT. It is Ok to say NO.)
5. Visit with the Parole Officer/Probation Officer (IF PROMPTED).
6. Some individuals may require someone to be assigned to stay with them during all Church meetings or activities at all times, even to the restroom (DEPENDING ON THEIR RESTRICTIONS OR UNDER THE BISHOP'S DIRECTION).
7. Be conscientious that all assistance you provide is appropriate per inmate's legal restrictions.
8. Never overstep your role as a Church leader by breaking any parole or probation condition that is placed on the individual.
9. Meet with them weekly or as needed.
10. Setting boundaries is healthy for both you and the individual. By setting and maintaining good boundaries, you will avoid becoming burned out. Church leaders who do not set strong boundaries often feel used, disrespected, and walked on. It is much easier to set very strong boundaries and loosen them over time than it is to strengthen weak boundaries.

The following guidelines will assist you in setting appropriate boundaries:

- a) Start by talking to your individual about boundaries early in your relationship. Share your boundaries and ask the individual to share theirs. It is important to check in with each other as the relationship progresses, to ensure that you are both comfortable with the established boundaries. It is important to write down the boundaries and the responsibilities for the Church leader and individual. Boundaries will not always be clear-cut, and circumstances can change them. An issue that was initially identified as being out of bounds could be dealt with at a later stage, if both the Church leader and individual consent.
- b) Begin each meeting with a prayer, and end with a prayer.
- c) Agree on how often you will meet, what time, where, and for what purpose.
- d) Meet with the individual in a public place or utilizing two-deep leadership (REFER TO CHURCH HANDBOOKS FOR POLICES AND GUIDELINES).
- e) If you are not comfortable in providing the individual with your cell number, purchase an inexpensive mobile phone with prepaid minutes, and dedicate that phone number to be used only by the individual. Provide the number to the individual prior to release, if possible.
- f) Say, "I only accept phone calls until _____pm, unless there is an emergency."
- g) Set physical touch boundaries. Some individuals like to hug..
- h) Let the individual know when you may have to refer them to someone else for additional help.
- i) Be honest and open when you talk with them.
- j) Be "real" (they can spot an imposter, liar, phony, pretender, and deceiver).
- k) Treat the individual as an adult who is responsible for themselves.
- l) Do not give ANY of your personal information to the individual.
- m) Do not disclose, meet, or have them stay over at your residence.
- n) Do not become personally responsible for their success. Personal accountability for these individuals must be reinforced continually.
- o) Do not allow the individual to become dependent upon you. Always guide them to full self-reliance.