

### WHEN A SEX OFFENDER SEEKS TO JOIN THE LOCAL CHURCH

The following is a list of suggested actions to be taken by a congregation when a convicted sex offender approaches and seeks to join in the ministry of the church. This list assumes that the offender admits to the pastor his/her criminal record.

1. Have a detailed conversation with the individual. Find out the facts of the offense, the sentence, the conditions of probation, the name of the probation/parole officer and contact information for the officer.
2. Contact the probation/parole officer to verify the information received from the individual. Find out if probation restrictions would interfere with the individual being present on church property. Treat the probation officer as a reference and interview him/her as to the qualities of the individual.
3. If you find that the individual has no probation restrictions related to participation at church, then have another meeting with him/her. Inform the individual that it is possible for him/her to participate in the congregation under these conditions:
  - a. He/She may attend worship services, adult Sunday School, and other ministries only when accompanied by an adult “shepherd.”
  - b. He/She must have the “shepherd” with him/her at all times, even in the restroom.
  - c. He/She must not enter areas of the church property that are used by children and youth, even if he/she is accompanied by the “shepherd.”
  - d. He/She will not be accepted as a volunteer in any capacity that would provide opportunities for contact with children and youth.
  - e. He/She will sign a participation covenant, along with the person acting as the “shepherd,” describing his/her commitment to uphold the mission of the church and all the specific conditions required of him/her by the congregation.
  - f. He/She will support the pastor and appropriate church leaders in sharing the facts of his/her participation with any and all who need to know.
  - g. He/She will be asked to leave the congregation in the event any of these conditions are not followed.