

## Resolution 13. Child Safety

1. WHEREAS, Children are precious to our Lord Jesus, and Holy Scripture commands us not to
2. harm children: “Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives
3. Me. But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would
4. be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in
5. the depth of the sea” (Matthew 18:5–6, NKJV); and
6. WHEREAS, The General Council is zealous to fulfill the Lord’s command, protecting children
7. from harm and striving to see that all its ministries and ministers are providing safe
8. places for ministry to children; and
9. WHEREAS, The General Council is committed to publishing child safety practices and
10. guidelines in accordance with biblical truth as an educational resource for ministries
11. and ministers affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, to
12. enable each to hire, train, supervise, and discipline its own staff, clergy, church
13. leaders, and volunteers to protect children from harm and abuse; and
14. WHEREAS, It would be beneficial to codify in our General Council Bylaws our commitment to
15. publish child safety practices and guidelines for our affiliated churches, ministries,
16. and ministers; therefore, be it
17. RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES
18. DISAPPROVED, paragraph B. LIST OF DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES
19. DISAPPROVED, page 173, be amended by the addition of a new Section 15, to
20. read as follows:
21. **B. LIST OF DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED**
22. In accord with its constitutional prerogatives, The General Council of the
23. Assemblies of God has declared itself pertaining to disapproval of certain
24. matters as follows:
25. **Section 15. Child Safety Practices and Guidelines**
26. Our Lord Jesus placed a high value on children (Mathew 18:2–6). In
27. accord with this truth, the General Presbytery of The General Council of the
28. Assemblies of God is committed to publishing (and updating) “Child Safety
29. Practices and Guidelines” for local churches, ministers, and ministries
30. associated or affiliated with the Assemblies of God. Any credentialed

1. minister, affiliated church, or affiliated ministry who is found to knowingly
2. and grossly neglect implementation of child safety practices (as suggested
3. by the "Child Safety Practices and Guidelines") that are reasonable and
4. possible for the specific ministry context may be subject to disciplinary
5. action and/or disaffiliation.
6. And, be it further
7. RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE, Section 3.  
Causes of
8. Disciplinary Action, pages 173-174, be amended by the addition of a new
9. paragraph k. to read as follows:
10. k. Known and gross neglect to implement reasonable child safety practices
11. (as
12. suggested in the "Child Safety Practices and Guidelines" published by the
13. General Presbytery). (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 15.)
13. And, be it further
14. RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE, Section 3.  
Causes of
15. Disciplinary Action, pages 173-174, paragraphs k-l be relettered paragraphs  
l-m.

Sponsor: General Presbytery