



SAFE SANCTUARIES TRAINING



WHY SAFE SANCTUARY?

- 1996-General Conference Resolution on Child Protection
- 1998-*Safe Sanctuaries* is published by GBOD
- 2007-SC Annual Conference resolution
- A New Way of Living (Churches will no longer be a SAFE HAVEN for potential or convicted predators)

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BSA LAWSUIT

UMC AGREEMENT



SECTION 1

Commitment





YOUR COMMITMENT

- Conduct the ministry of Jesus Christ in ways that assure the physical and emotional safety and spiritual growth of all our children, youth and vulnerable adults as well as all of our workers with children, youth and vulnerable adults.

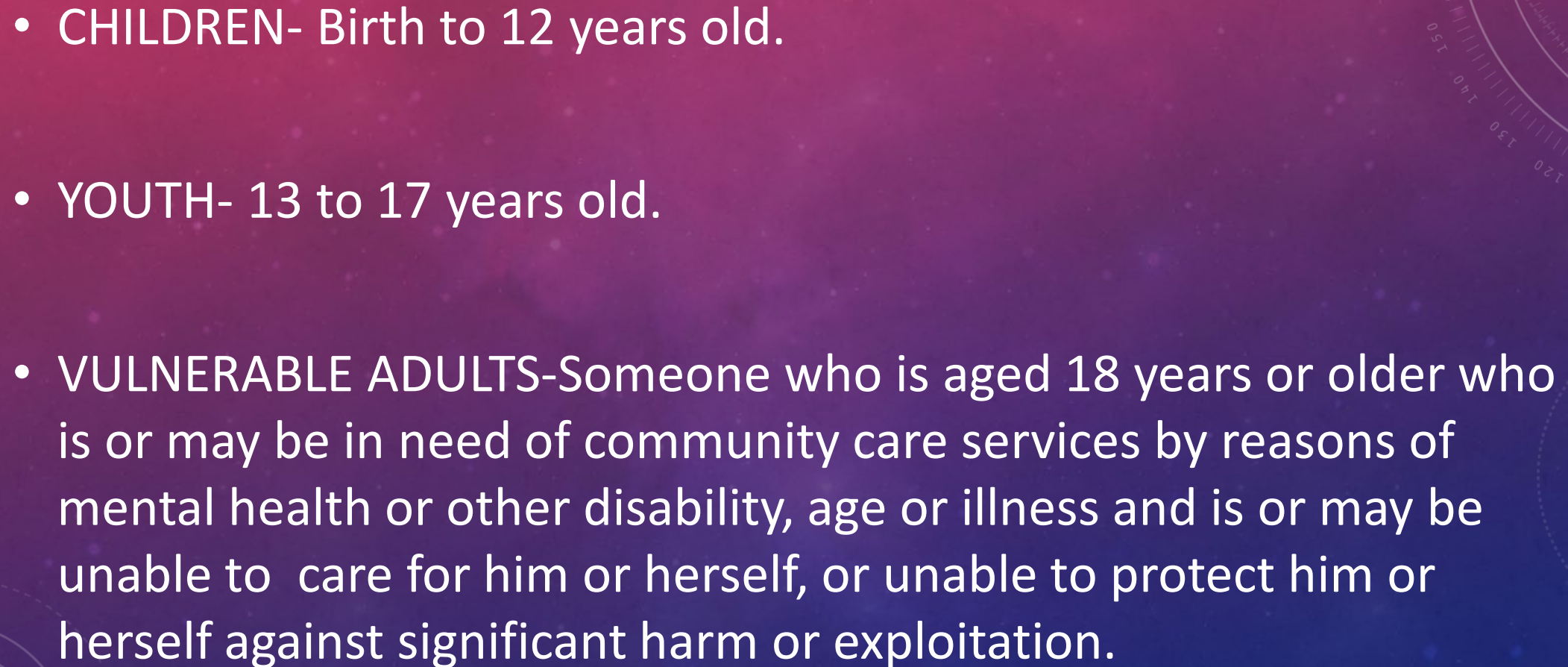


WE WILL

- Follow reasonable safety measures when selecting and recruiting workers.
- Implement appropriate operational procedures.
- Train our workers with children and youth on our procedures and policies.
- Have a clearly defined procedure for reporting a suspected incident of abuse consistent with the South Carolina state law.



DEFINITIONS

- CHILDREN- Birth to 12 years old.
 - YOUTH- 13 to 17 years old.
 - VULNERABLE ADULTS-Someone who is aged 18 years or older who is or may be in need of community care services by reasons of mental health or other disability, age or illness and is or may be unable to care for him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.
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SECTION 2

- Screening

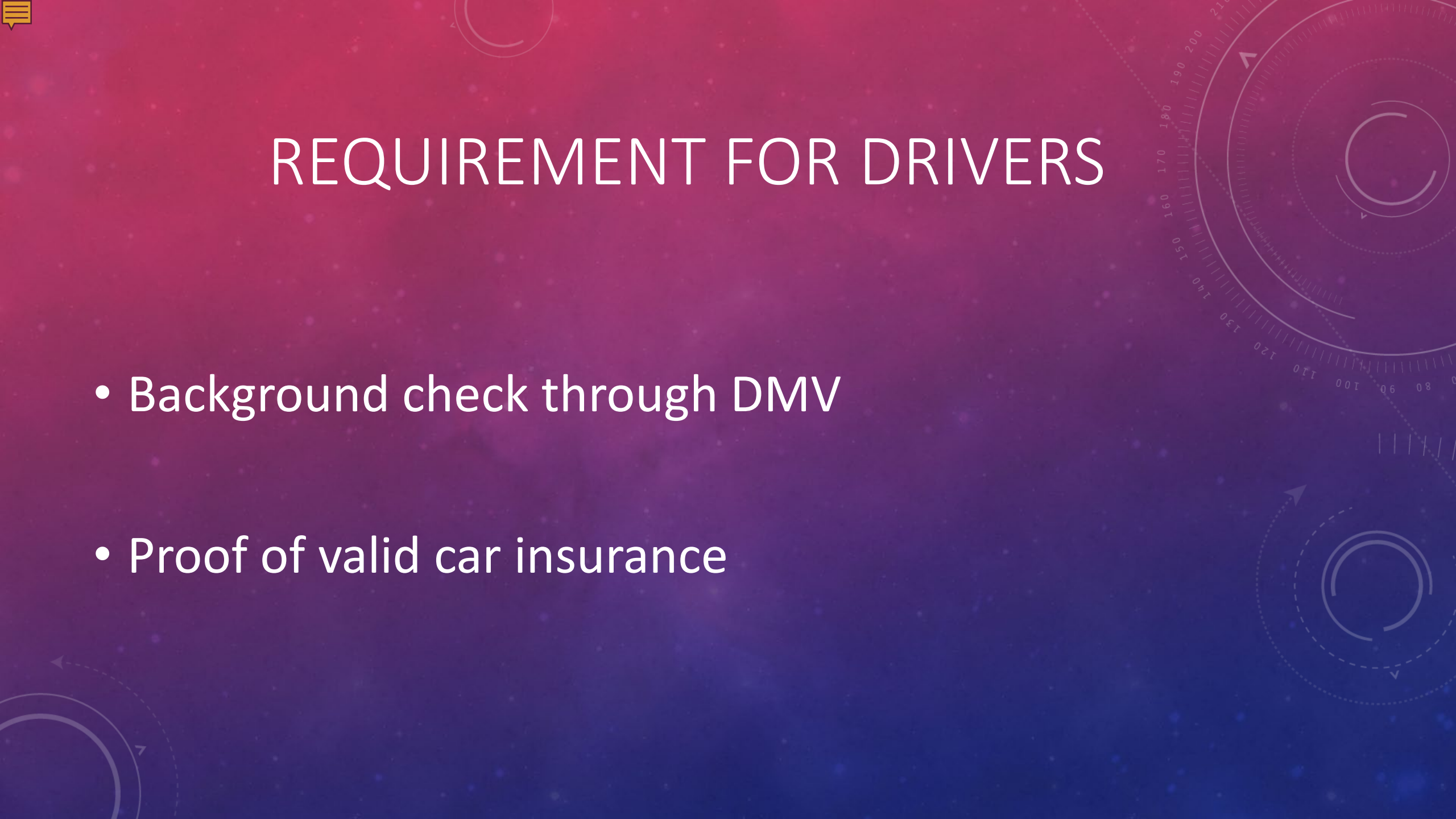


SCREENING REQUIREMENTS

- Age
- Forms
- 6 months of active participation
- Reference checks
- Holy Conversation
- Background checks



REQUIREMENT FOR DRIVERS

- Background check through DMV
 - Proof of valid car insurance
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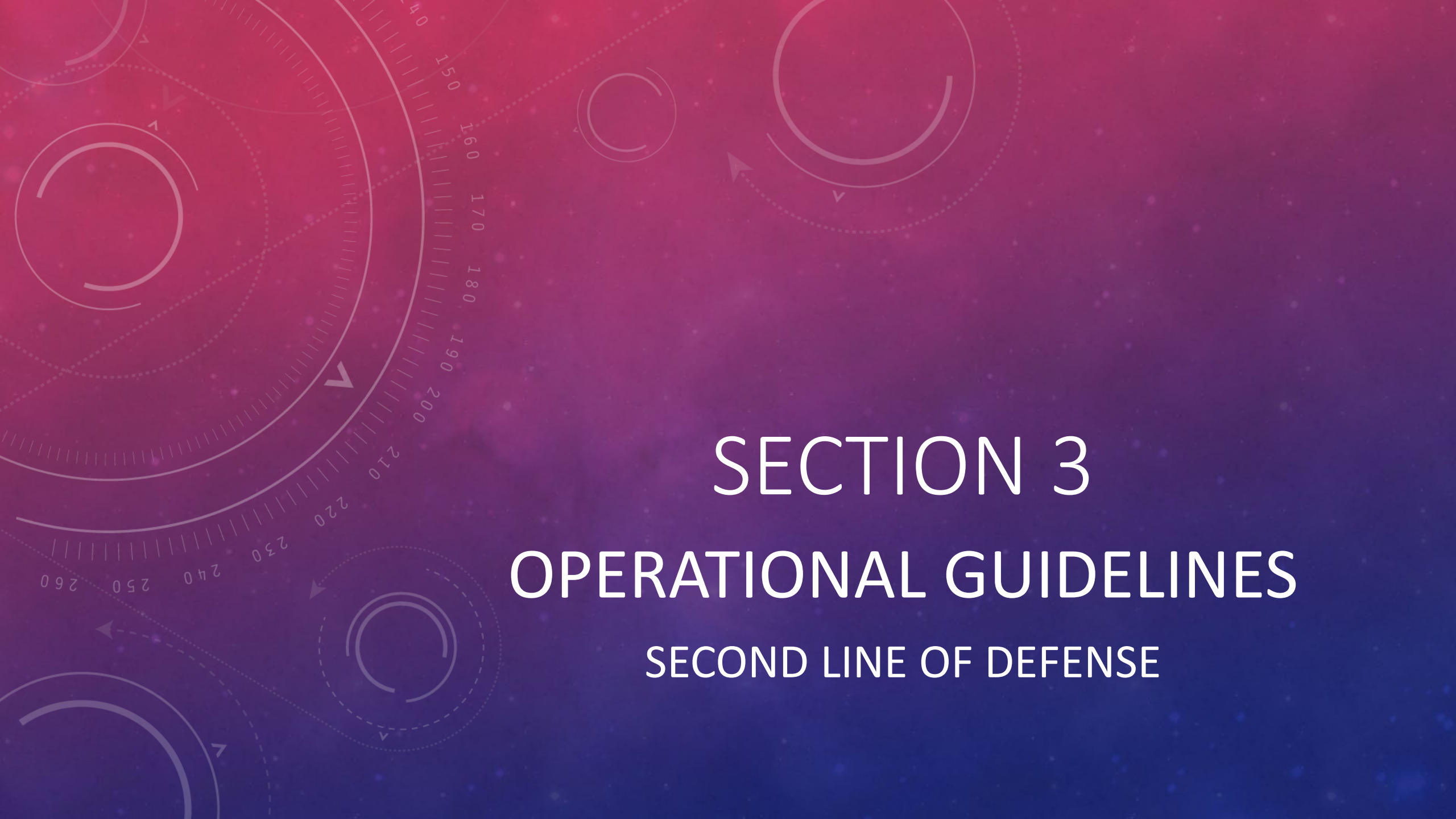
WHO DOES BACKGROUND CHECKS?

- You need to have 1 or 2 persons administering the background checks.
- Confidentiality of Information
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Background Checks

- ✓ Felony Convictions
- ✓ Child abuse or sexual misconduct
- ✓ DUI's for 5 years (For drivers)/poor driving record
- ✓ Financial malfeasance

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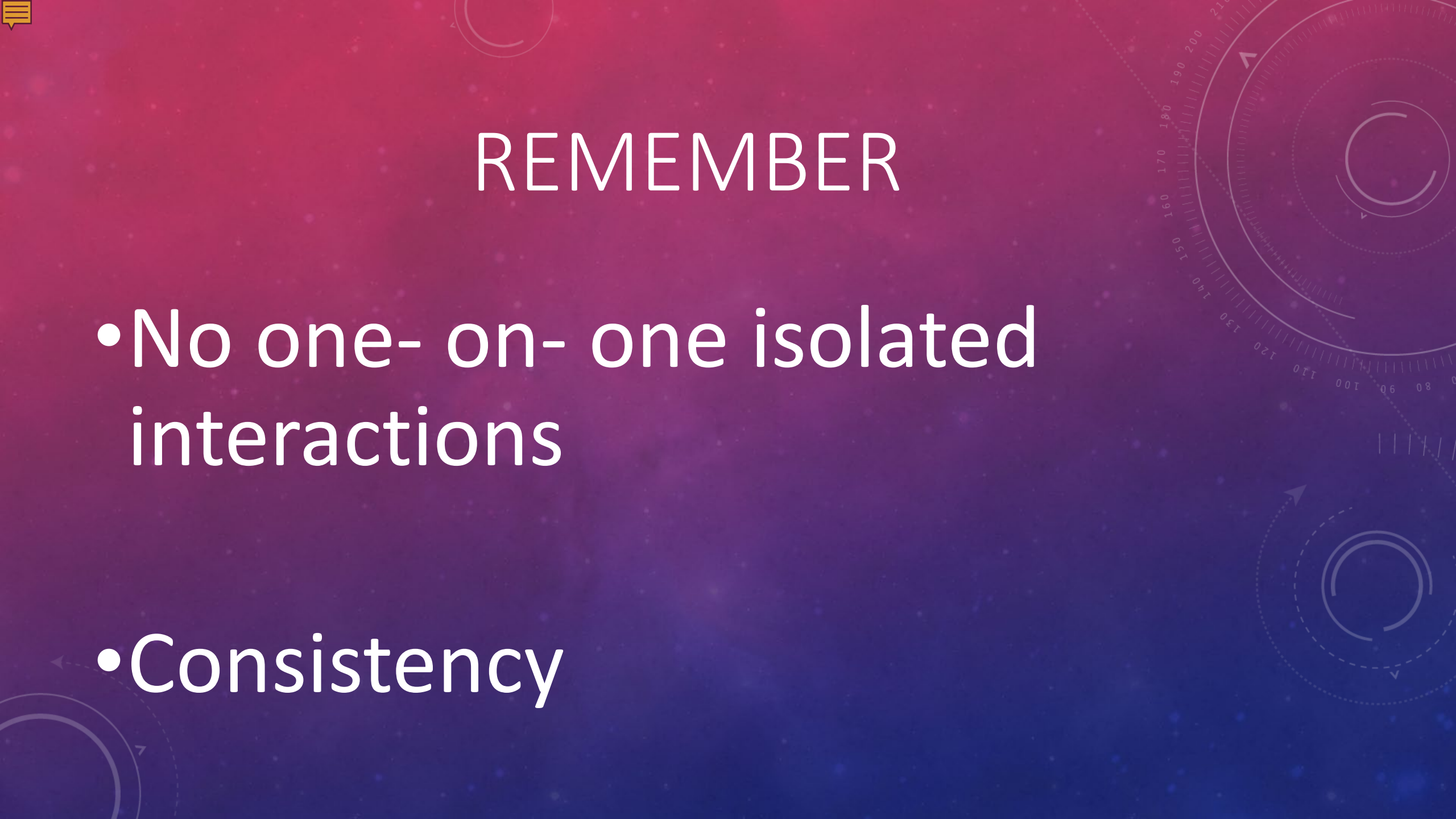
SECTION 3

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

SECOND LINE OF DEFENSE



REMEMBER

- No one- on- one isolated interactions
 - Consistency
- 



THE WAY WE DO LIFE TOGETHER.

- 2 non-related adult rule
- Open door policy-who can come in....
- Check in and check out process
- Outside access
- Doors and windows





GOOD TO KNOW....GOOD TO FOLLOW

- Touch
- Gifts





TRIPS AWAY FROM CHURCH





TRANSPORTING CHILDREN/YOUTH OFF CAMPUS

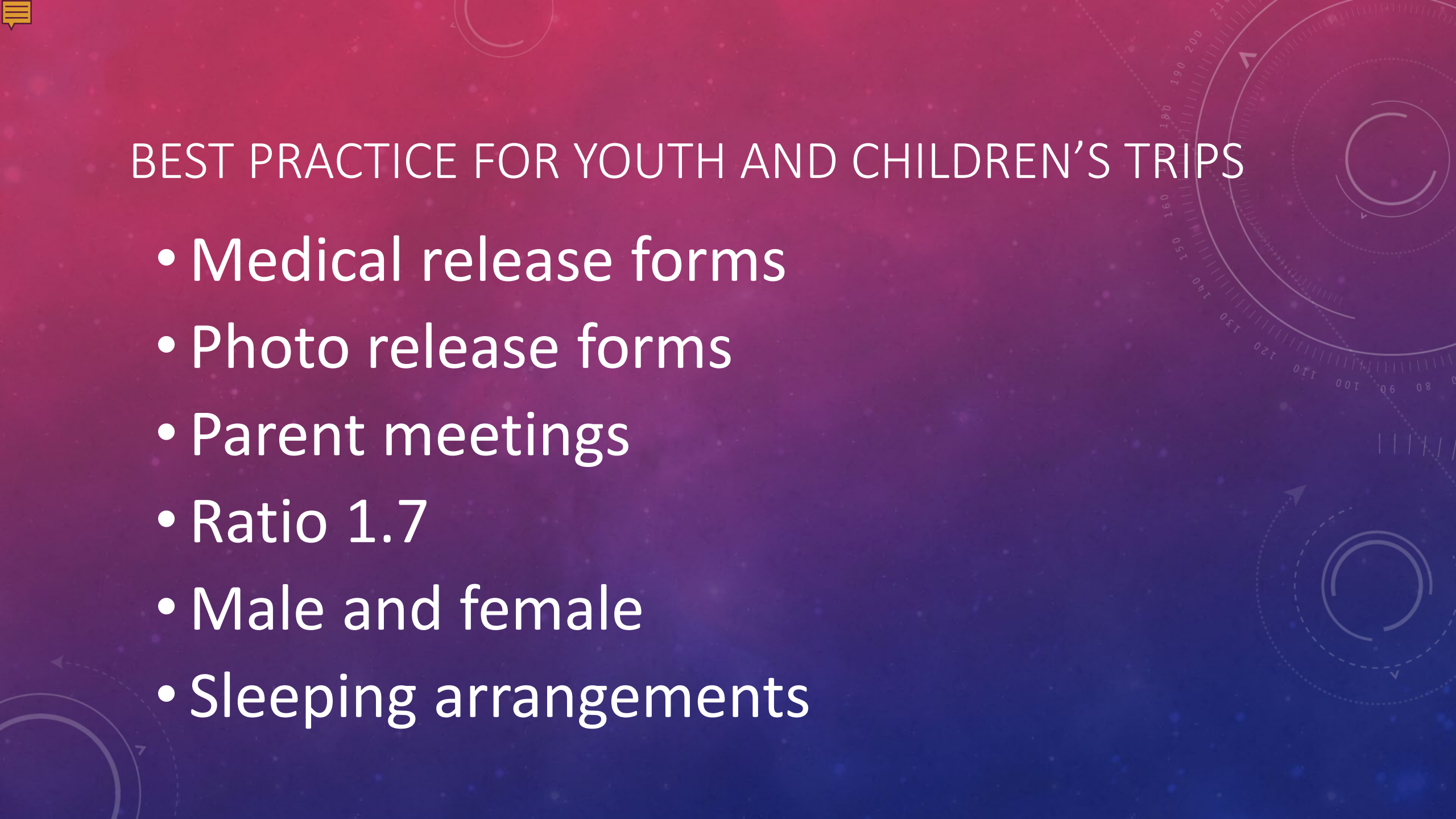
- No youth drive to/from events
- Adults,(*as much as possible*), do not drive with youth alone.

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BEST PRACTICE FOR TRIPS & OVERNIGHT TRIPS



BEST PRACTICE FOR YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S TRIPS

- Medical release forms
 - Photo release forms
 - Parent meetings
 - Ratio 1.7
 - Male and female
 - Sleeping arrangements
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SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

- Option 1: No adult sleeps in the same bed or sleeping bag with a youth ,child or vulnerable adult.
- Option 2 and the best choice: No adults sleep in the same room as youth. Female adults may share a room male adults may share a room. Married couples do not share a room.



OUTSIDE GROUPS

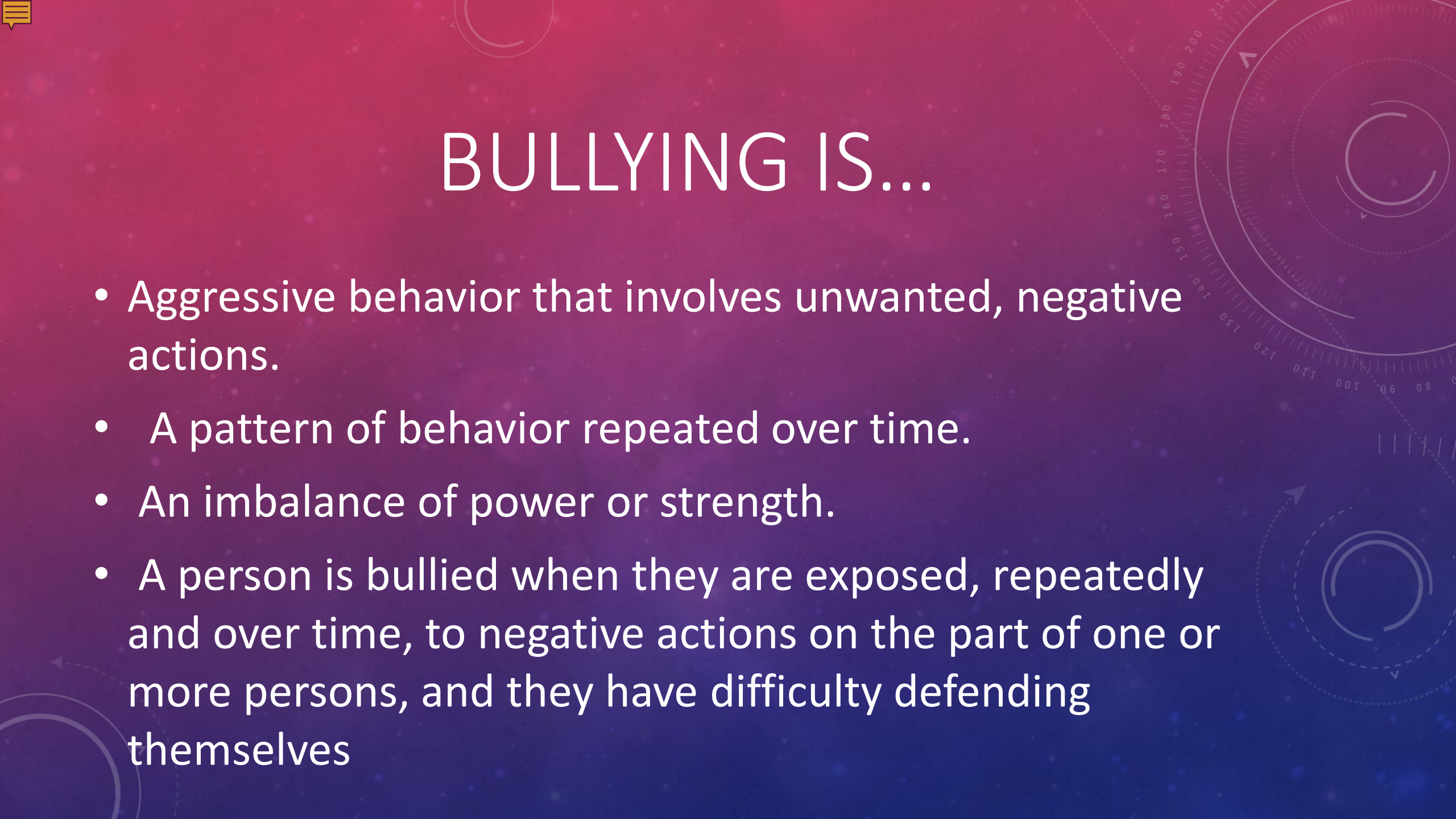
- Will follow our Safe Sanctuary policy guidelines
- Provide proof of background checks for their leaders
- A written statement that the Safe Sanctuary Policy has been followed.
- Immediately report suspected abuse that occurs on First UMC property.



BULLYING



BULLYING IS...

- Aggressive behavior that involves unwanted, negative actions.
 - A pattern of behavior repeated over time.
 - An imbalance of power or strength.
 - A person is bullied when they are exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more persons, and they have difficulty defending themselves
- 



FORMS OF BULLYING

- Verbal bullying, including derogatory comments and bad names.
- Bullying through social exclusion or isolation.
- Physical bullying, such as hitting, kicking, shoving and spitting.
- Bullying through lies and false rumors.

FORMS OF BULLYING CONTINUED

- Having money or other things taken or damaged or hidden by individuals who bully.
- Being threatened or being forced to do things by individuals who bully.
- Racial bullying. o Sexual bullying.
- Cyber bullying (via cell phone or internet)

WHEN BULLYING IS SUSPECTED

- It should be brought to the attention of the supervising adult present at the time of the incident by either the child, youth or adult targeted, or any witnesses, parents or volunteers.
- Appropriate staff – children's ministry for children, youth ministry for youth, a pastor for adults – should immediately be made aware of any reports.
- The staff member will notify the senior pastor and keep a record of any reported claims of bullying in order to document patterns or trends in behavior.



IF YOU SUSPECT

IF BULLYING CONTINUES?


- Parents/guardians of the child, youth or adult accused of bullying will be asked to attend the program/class with their child, youth or adult.
- A child, youth or adult accused of bullying will be separated for the ministry activity.
- A mentor will be assigned to assist the child, youth or adult accused of bullying.
- A behavioral covenant will be developed for the child, youth or adult accused of bullying.

SOCIAL MEDIA





GUIDELINES

- Multiple unrelated people managing your social media.
 - First line of communication: Group chat or email chat.
 - Preserve all one-one electronic communication.
 - Announce and/or publicize all live streaming.
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- • Digital Platforms – Any social media or online spaces that can be created for interaction. Examples: Facebook, Instagram, GroupMe, Remind, Church Website, WhatsApp, TikTok and Twitter.

SECTION 4

Response to an allegation

DOCUMENT, DOCUMENT

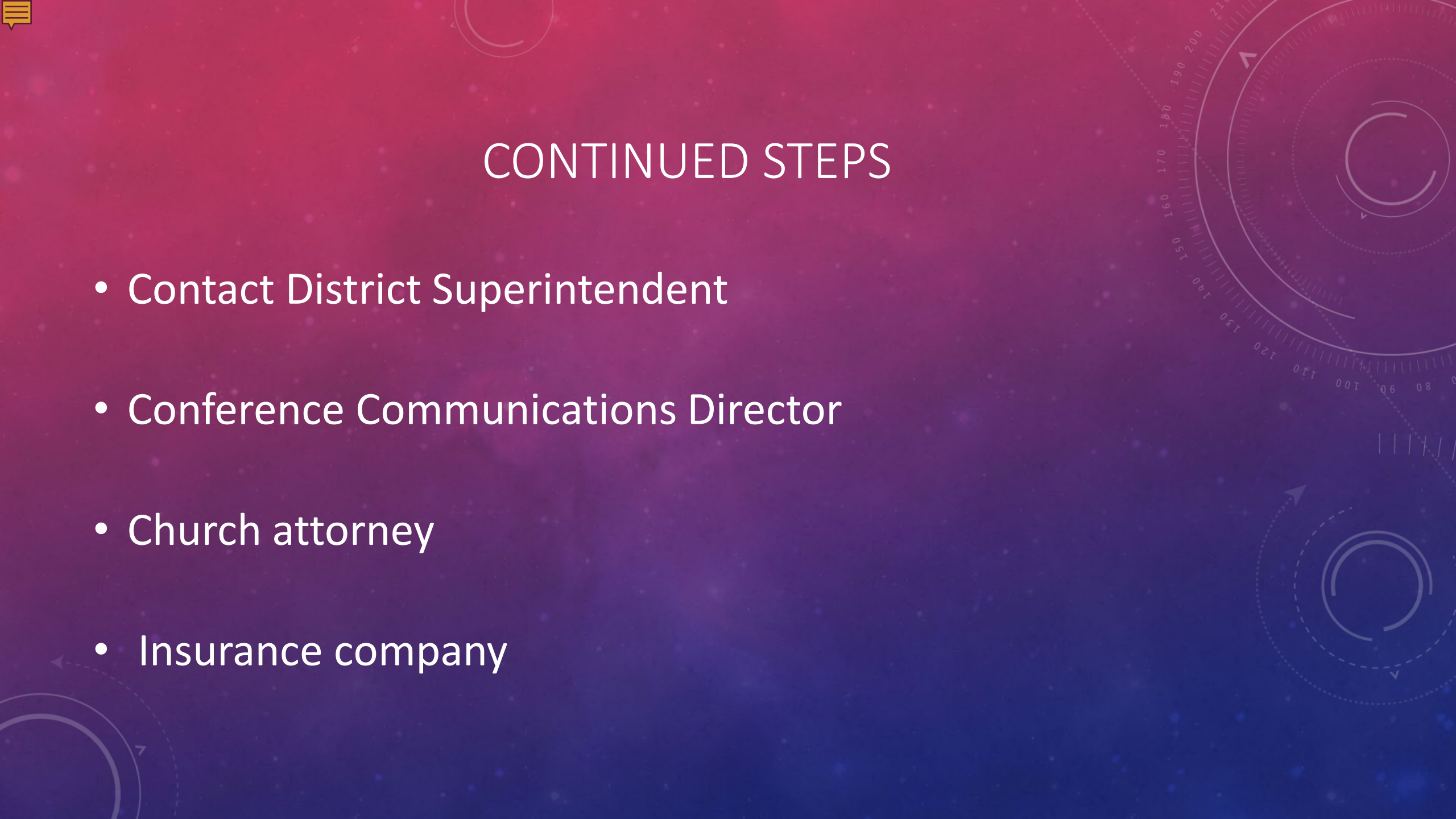


IF VOLUNTEER IS ACCUSED

- Ensure protection and attend to immediate needs of the victim.
- Contact the senior pastor or pastor on call.
- Pastor will notify parents and take next steps
- Notify authorities
- Remove the accused from position while investigation takes place.



CONTINUED STEPS

- Contact District Superintendent
 - Conference Communications Director
 - Church attorney
 - Insurance company
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IF PASTOR IS ACCUSED

1. Call SPRC chair
2. SPRC call District Superintendent
3. District Superintendent calls Bishop
4. Response team may be called to support church



MANDATORY REPORTER





DOCUMENT, DOCUMENT





LIVING DOCUMENT

REVIEWED ANNUALLY



NEXT STEPS

- Policies submitted for review by District Team
- Visits will be scheduled to assist with policies, as necessary.
- Churches and charges that need assistance will have it provided.
- Churches that have policies in good shape will just have documentation (background check/training) verified.
- Remember, Your policy should be one that your church can **CONSISTENTLY FOLLOW**.

SUBMISSION OF POLICY

- All policies need to be submitted to District Team for Review
- Policies can be submitted as follows:
 - Via e-mail to rgfitchii@knology.net
 - USPS on CD, thumb drive, or paper to Stallville UMC, 255 Stallville Loop, Summerville, SC 29485 (We will mail back thumb drives)
 - Provide name and contact information of responsible person