



Diocese of the
MID-ATLANTIC
Anglican Church in North America

**Child Protection Policy Acknowledgment Form
for Members of the Vestry, and Lay Staff
Members who Supervise Youth or Children**

I certify that I have read:

- the Diocesan Policy Manual on the Protection of Children

and

- _____ Prevention of Child Abuse Policy.
(name of church)

I further certify that I will abide by the provisions of these policies as long as I am an employee/volunteer of the church.

If I breach this policy in any way, for any reason, I will inform my supervisor or rector of my actions and the reasons for them.

Printed Name

Signature

Date



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**DOMA Policy for the Protection of Children
Local Church Implementation Questions**

Who should be involved at our local church?

What are our first steps in screening?

Who should be involved in training?

What are our first steps in monitoring?

Who should be involved in record keeping?

What is our timeline for implementation so that we can comply with the November 14, 2014 deadline for implementation?

What is our first step?



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Resources for Background Checks

Oxford Document Management Company:

Website: <http://www.oxforddoc.com>

Phone: 1-800- 801-9114

The Law offices of Stephen Bamberger

1529 Old Bridge Road, Suite 2

Woodbridge, VA 22192

Phone: 703-551-4979

LexisNexis:

Website: www.lexisnexis.com/backgroundchecks/

Phone: 1- 800-869-0751

SAMPLE PERMISSION FORM

Dear Parents,

You, like me, are faced with raising kids in the 'Facebook' generation. These kids are very techno savvy and do most of their peer communicating with their keyboards or their mad 'texting' skills. This may seem a bit impersonal to us, but in actuality, the world of Facebook can be very telling. I can learn more about a kid in reading their daily posts than I can with two dozen fleeting conversations in the hallway—and you can too.

On behalf of the youth leader team at All Saints' Church, **we encourage you to step into the strange possibly unfamiliar waters of Facebook.** Chances are, this is where your teen 'lives'. Because of this dynamic, it is an excellent venue for ministry. Without wise parameters however, it can also be potentially dangerous. We want you to know that **many, if not all, of the youth minister team at All Saints are 'friends' with your child on Facebook.** Our leaders have been through rigorous training and background screening before they may do this. This is the list of youth workers included with these guidelines:

Facebook can be a fun place to network and keep up, but as mentioned, it **can be dangerous.** The good thing about Facebook is that it has many OPTIONAL controls that can be put in place to make the experience much less 'public'. Each person's page can be set up with extreme privacy with only selected friends being able to have access. You should know however, that **if your child's account isn't set up with these boundaries in place, anyone on the Internet could access their information** and photos on Facebook. The fastest demographic of people joining Facebook right now are people over 30—and the number is growing geometrically. More statistics can be had at:

<http://www.facebook.com/press/info.php?statistics>

Do you know how your child's account is set up? Do you know who is included in your child's 'friend' list? If your response is, uh, no, then we recommend the following:

- Set up a Facebook page of your own
- Become your child's 'friend' and require this for them to keep their page
- Set up rules for who they can be 'friends' with (i.e., only people they actually know and have relationships with)
- No embarrassing or even potentially seductive photos on your Facebook page.
- Have understood expectations about when and how long they can spend on Facebook each day.

Be friendly, but be their parent. It is important to talk to our kids and be frank and honest with them. We should treat them as the human beings that they are. We should respect their reasonable boundaries, such as, agreeing not to 'post' on their page. Whatever might make them more receptive to well thought-out controls. We can even ask THEM how they think they could make their time on Facebook more 'safe'.