**Sample Policy for Registered Sex Offender (RSO) Church Attendance and Participation**

This policy outlines the guidelines for current registered sex offenders, or offenders who have been on the registry (RSOs), attending and participating in the life of our church. Our foundational belief, rooted in Scripture, is that the gospel has the power to change all people, including RSOs (Romans 1:16; 1 Cor. 6 9-11; 2 Cor. 5:17).   
 It is therefore possible for an RSO to be an active member of our congregation. However, Scripture also teaches that certain actions have consequences in varying degrees (Romans 6:23, Luke 12:47-48). We believe that a key indicator of repentance for a convicted RSO is their cooperation and submission to both government and church authorities (2 Cor. 7:10, Matthew 3:8). We believe that it is scriptural, reasonable and wise to make RSO participation in the church conditional upon compliance with this policy. Wisdom may also dictate that a RSO not be allowed to attend. The church reserves the right at any point to deny the RSO the privilege to attend. It shall always be assumed that any RSO represents some level of threat to vulnerable populations. The church may require that the RSO meet with members of the congregation for a lengthy period in an off-campus discipleship and accountability group prior to being allowed to attend church services in-person. The purpose of these meetings is to allow the RSO to demonstrate sustained genuine repentance.

The primary purpose of this policy is to protect and uphold the church's gospel witness in the community and to eliminate any concerns or distractions for those who attend our services and activities. Secondary concerns, in order of priority, are: the safety of vulnerable members, the broader community of believers, the community at large, and finally, the RSO. The feelings, needs, and preferences, and safety of the RSO will be considered last. The fact that an offender is no longer required to register does not dismiss them from compliance with this policy. This policy will apply in perpetuity regardless of whether the RSO is still required to register with law enforcement. Discharge of sentence or completion of community supervision has no impact on the applicability of this policy.

**Conditions for RSO Attendance and Participation:  
  
Approved Chaperone (AC):**

* An RSO must be always accompanied by an Approved Chaperone (AC) while on church property or at any church-related event.
* The AC's role is to ensure the safety and peace of mind of those in attendance, as well as to protect the RSO from false accusations.
* The AC will be appointed by the church's Safety Team (or church leadership if a Safety Team does not exist). The AC must be of the same gender as the RSO and approximately the same age. The RSO's spouse or family members may not serve as the AC.
* The AC must be familiar with the details of the RSO's offense and any counseling the RSO has received. The AC is required to meet with the RSO's counselor, community supervision officer, or parole officer to fully understand the nature of the offense and the RSO's progress.
* The AC is responsible for ensuring that the RSO's attendance does not violate any terms of their community supervision (probation), parole, or treatment guidelines.
* The AC's priority is the safety of the congregation, followed by the safety of the community, and finally the safety of the RSO.
* The church may limit the RSO’s attendance to one worship service per week.
* The RSO must be escorted to and from their vehicle.

**On-Site Conduct:**

* The AC must ensure the RSO is never alone or in close proximity to children or anyone under the age of 18.
* The AC must check that bathrooms are empty before the RSO enters and must wait by the door until the RSO exits.
* The RSO may not wander through any church building unaccompanied.
* During worship services, the RSO will not sit near any children or youth.
* The RSO may not attend children's or youth activities.
* The RSO may never assist with or participate in teaching or serving children and youth.
* The RSO is not permitted to transport minors, other than their own children, to or from church or any church-related activities.

**Specific Event Attendance and Chaperone Availability:**

* The RSO may not attend children’s events on or off-site.
* If the AC is unavailable, the RSO will not be permitted on church property.
* The AC is responsible for regularly updating the Safety Team or church leadership on any issues related to the RSO's compliance with this policy.
* If the AC becomes uncomfortable with their duties or is unwilling to continue, the Safety Team will recruit a new AC. The RSO may not attend any church function until a new AC is approved.

**Violations and Legal Compliance:**

* A single violation of these conditions will result in the termination of the RSO's privilege to attend church.
* Any complaining or grumbling regarding these conditions by the RSO will result in the termination of the RSO’s privilege to attend church.
* Any violation may lead to a Criminal Trespass Warning and removal from the premises.
* The RSO is required to adhere to all Texas state laws concerning sex offender registration and to comply with all requirements of their community supervision.
* The church Safety Team will notify the County Sheriff's office and other local law enforcement of the RSO's church participation and will consult with them to determine if any additional terms and conditions need to be added to this policy.
* The Safety Team reserves the right to refuse to allow the RSO from attending this church.
* If any RSO’s victims attend (even occasionally) or desire to attend this church, the RSO will not be permitted to attend.
* Prior to attending any church activity, the RSO must sign this agreement, which establishes the guidelines for participation.
* Members and visitors may be notified in writing or, in any other manner deemed necessary, of the presence of RSO on the campus of the church, the nature of the RSO’s offense, and the steps taken to ensure the safety of the congregation and community.

Other conditions:  
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Approved Adult Chaperone Date