

Friendship Companion Training

Abuse

Reporting Abuse – The Law

Adults with intellectual disabilities are considered to be “vulnerable” and reporting abuse is subject to the same laws as minors

- In Indiana, all reports of abuse must be reported whether the offence occurred in the Friendship group or prior to coming to the group
- Keep the report confidential and quiet any conversations you hear from others

Reporting Abuse - Course of action

- Report to the pastor responsible for your ministry and the Executive Director of Connection Ministries
- Connection Ministries will work with your congregation to report to the authorities
- We are only responsible to report, not determine the creditability of the accusation. There are no penalties for reporting should the report be inaccurate.

Prevention

- Congregations should have a safety and risk management policy
- Rule of three – There should always be more than one volunteer present with friends with disabilities
- All volunteers undergo a criminal background screen every two years
- Every person with a disability participating in the ministry is screened with the Indiana Sexual Offender Registry

Prevention

- Families and caregivers are encouraged to participate in the class
- Caregivers need to remain in the class and assist with the personal care of the individuals they brought to the class.