

McCurdy Ministries Community Center Safe Sanctuary Training Standards

(Revised February 2019)

McCurdy Ministries, along with the United Methodist Church affirms that all children, youth and vulnerable adults have the right to safe sanctuary. McCurdy is committed to providing an environment on our grounds and in our ministries, in which children, youth and vulnerable adults are safe from neglect or abuse. The scope of the McCurdy Ministries Safe Sanctuary policy and its provisions shall apply to all staff, parents and volunteers, clergy or lay, who have direct or indirect contact with children, youth, or vulnerable adults in the context of our ministries. Most United Methodist annual conferences have instituted Safe Sanctuary certification or similar programs. McCurdy Ministries will recognize certification from these annual conference programs provided they meet the standards we have set.

These standards include:

1. Application
2. Training either through an online program or by an individual trainer certified by the annual conference.
3. Criminal Check including

SSN Verification & Address History Trace

National Criminal Database Search (with Re-Verification of positive records)

National Sex Offender Registry Search

County or Statewide Court Search for the state and county in which the individual resides

4. Pastoral/Professional Reference
5. Personal Reference

How do I determine whether my annual conference Safe Sanctuary (or similar) certification meets the standards stated above?

In order to have your annual conference Safe Sanctuary certification recognized by McCurdy, you must request a description of your annual conference's certification process be mailed or emailed to Rev. Diana Loomis, McCurdy director of church relations, at dloomis@mccurdy.org from the annual conference staff member who administers your conference Safe Sanctuary certification. Please note if your annual conference certification process is not approved you must complete the McCurdy online Safe Sanctuary training and be certified **before your arrival on campus**. The Missouri, Oklahoma, Great Plains Annual Conferences and the General Board of Global Ministries Individual Volunteer Program of the United Methodist Church have Safe Sanctuary (or similar) certification processes that are approved by McCurdy because their training meets all McCurdy's standards.

The Central Texas Annual Conference Ministry Safe Certification has been approved with the following requirements: All McCurdy volunteers over 18 must complete at least a level 3 Ministry Safe Background Check for their MinistrySafe Certification to be recognized by McCurdy. In addition, the church MinistrySafe Administrator and the Senior or Associate Pastor must sign the Central Texas Conference Ministry Safe Compliance for Conference Sponsored Events Form. On that form the two persons signing the form must indicate that all persons listed have completed a Level 3 Ministry Safe Background Check. In addition, any team members from the Central Texas Conference who are 15 to 18 years of age must complete the MinistrySafe Training EXCEPT for the background check. And the local church MinistrySafe Administrator and the Senior or Associate Pastor must sign the Central Texas Conference Ministry Safe Compliance for Conference Sponsored Events Form for these youth. The Central Texas Conference Ministry Safe Compliance for Conference Sponsored Events Form must be provided to the McCurdy Ministries VIM Registrar, Eufemia Romero, no later than two weeks before the team's arrival on campus.

The Susquehanna Conference Safe Sanctuary Training has been approved. However, the McCurdy Ministries Community Center Safe Sanctuary Policy calls for a nationwide background check that covers felonies as well as misdemeanors. Therefore volunteers from the Susquehanna Conference who are 19 or over will have to complete a background check through the McCurdy Safe Sanctuary Training Module on our website at a cost of \$15. Please contact Eufemia Romero, volunteer registrar, for instructions on how to complete the background check.

Once my annual conference Safe Sanctuary (or similar) certification process is accepted what is next? Each volunteer or team leaders must provide a copy of their certification letter from their annual conference directly to Ms. Eufemia Romero at eromero@mccurdy.org. If you complete the McCurdy Safe Sanctuary certification this step is not necessary because your certification is on file until it expires.

Please note: It is the policy of the McCurdy Ministries Community Center Board of Directors that as of Feb. 1, 2013, all volunteers and staff must be Safe Sanctuary certified by McCurdy or the United Methodist Annual Conference in which they reside. McCurdy Safe Sanctuary training can be found at www.mccurdy.org, costs \$30 for individuals 19 and older and \$15 for 15-18 year old youth and can be completed in an hour and a half.

Questions about our Safe Sanctuary training? Please contact Eufemia Romero by email at eromero@mccurdy.org and by phone at 505-753-7221, ext. 210. You may write to Ms. Romero at McCurdy Ministries, 261 S. McCurdy Road, Española, NM 87532.

Thank you for helping to create a safe, nurturing atmosphere for all children and youth participating in McCurdy Ministries Community Center programs!