

# NT Students Safety Standards

We value our students & leaders, and we care about the safety of everyone involved in student ministry. The purpose of these standards is to protect leaders & students.

## **Appropriate interaction with students:**

*Why is this necessary?* Some of this might seem a little straight-forward, overboard and “common sense,” but it is important to have these guidelines in place to ensure the safety of all of our students and leaders. The purpose of this is not to limit or restrain you, but to protect both you and the students.

1. Avoid situations that might lead to you being alone with any student, especially of the opposite gender, whether during student events or outside of student events.
2. Avoid any potentially inappropriate interaction with students, especially those of the opposite gender. Examples of inappropriate behavior include kissing, full embrace hugs, tickling, inappropriate comments relating to a student’s body or abilities, etc.
  - Good alternatives: handshakes, high fives, one-armed side hugs, appropriate verbal praise/affirmation, etc.
3. Physical, sexual, or romantic relationships between a student ministry leader and a student are unethical and strictly prohibited.
4. If you notice any inappropriate behavior, report it to your coach or appropriate ministry leader *immediately*.

## **Counseling students:**

1. One-on-one counseling with students, especially of the opposite gender, is prohibited.
2. If you feel like you need to meet with any student to counsel or mentor them one-on-one, notify your coach to determine the best course of action together.
3. Remember: you can’t fix everything, and that’s okay! You are (most likely) not a licensed counselor, and we don’t expect you to be. In certain situations, it may be necessary for you to make counseling referrals for students who need professional help. Notify your coach if this situation occurs.

Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

## NT Students Safety Standards (continued)

4. Confidentiality. When students share information with you in confidence, handle such situations in a responsible manner. You are welcome and encouraged to talk with your coach about issues your students are facing for the purposes of support and advice, but be very wise in who else you share information with. Trust is a huge thing, especially for young people. We don't want to break trust!
5. Limits to Confidentiality. While confidentiality is important, there are some limits to confidentiality. If you ever believe a student is in danger, is a danger to other(s), or is the victim of abuse, you **must** report it to your coach, student minister, or another ministry leader in charge. In certain situations, you may also need to notify other proper authorities.

### **Honesty and accountability:**

1. Honesty. We know you are not perfect! When you are struggling with something or failing in a certain area, don't hide it! Share your struggles with us so we can come alongside you and help you the best way possible.
2. Accountability. As a leader, it is important for you to protect yourself, the students, and your fellow leaders. There may be times when you need to hold one another accountable regarding things in these guidelines. Should that situation arise, handle it humbly and gently by bringing it to their attention in a non-condemning way.
  - In certain, more serious situations, it may be necessary for you to report an issue to a ministry leader immediately.

By signing below, you agree to follow these guidelines in all of your interactions with students.

---

Printed Name

---

Signature

---

Date