

October 17, 2016

BHBC Kids Volunteer (birth-5th grade):

As many of you may know, new Child Abuse Reporting rules went into effect July 1, 2012, as part of a new Georgia State law. These new Child Abuse Reporting regulations expand the definition of who is considered a “mandatory reporter” and REQUIRED to report suspected Child Abuse (to include neglect, physical, social and sexual forms of abuse). The definition **now includes** “clergy, school volunteers, **church volunteers**, interns, coaches, and anyone who comes into contact with young people (birth – eighteen years old).”

Please understand that our BHBC Child Protection policies have not changed— we are simply reinforcing existing policies and reiterating our current operating procedures for reporting.

Within BHBC, volunteers and employees who suspect abuse should report it to the BHBC Kids Pastor (birth-5th grade) or Student Ministries Pastor (6th-12th grade). Should the appropriate Pastor not be available, the report should be made to the Executive Pastor or Business Administrator. Reports should be made within 24 hours.

The new law states:

“An oral report shall be made immediately, **but in no case later than 24 hours** from the time there is reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused, by telephone or otherwise and followed by a report in writing if requested to a child welfare agency providing protective service as designated by the Department of Human Services, or in the absence of such agency to appropriate police agency or district attorney.”

Again, your responsibility is to confidentially notify the BHBC Kids Pastor (birth-5th grade) or Student Ministries Pastor (6th-12th grade) of any reports of abuse within 24 hours.

If you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact me at 678-718-3680 or via e-mail to aholloway@burnthickory.com.

Onward and Upward,



Rev. Aaron Holloway

BHBC Kids Pastor (birth-5th grade)

cc: Mike Stephens, Senior Pastor
Marty Godfrey, Executive Pastor

Matt Petty, Student Ministries Pastor
Chip Vincent, Business Administrator