

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1. Commitment to safeguarding

Biblical Frameworks is committed to good practice, especially when it comes to ensuring the safeguarding of children and adults. We therefore make the following statement in response to Government guidelines:

As a Christian organisation we affirm our belief in the God-given value of each person with whom we might have contact. In recognition of God's wholehearted commitment to them, we will also treat each individual with value and dignity and aim that none suffers physical, sexual, emotional, psychological or spiritual abuse of any kind.

Biblical Frameworks is committed to following Government guidance for safeguarding of children and adults at risk where this is relevant. We also aim to follow good practice recommended by thirtyone:eight.

2. Context

The beneficiaries of our charitable work are individual adults and adult groups who access our Bible study resources through broadcasts, video streaming, DVDs, eBooks and printed material. Biblical Frameworks therefore does not usually have direct contact with children or adults. We distribute the resources via the Biblical Frameworks website, bookshops, our partner Vision Video in North America, and Christian broadcasters around the world.

3. Prevention

We recognise there is a need to ensure that any contact is properly protected, albeit in its day-to-day publishing operations Biblical Frameworks does not have direct contact with children or adults. Our first duty is therefore to assess where we might have contact with children or adults at risk. In practice this might include:

- Supporter events.
- Online enquiries and donations via the Biblical Frameworks website.
- Telephone sales enquiries via our primary distribution agent (currently Verite).
- Social media via the Biblical Frameworks Facebook and Instagram pages.

3.1. Supporter events

Biblical Frameworks usually has one supporter event each year. Key donors and supporters are invited. No children are invited but it might be possible for children to attend with their parents or guardians. This in itself should ensure that any children are normally protected. However, we would remove any risk by ensuring:

- All elements of the event are in the 'public eye' – that is no separation of children from parents or guardians.
- Volunteers are adequately vetted and trained in safeguarding awareness.
- Any incidents are immediately reported to the Safeguarding Officer as set out in Section 4.

3.2. Online enquiries and donations

Our online channels do not provide for active 'chat' type of communications. Enquiries are forwarded by email and answered by one of the Trustees or the Chief Executive (CEO). If a child or adult at risk were to communicate in this way, the Trustee or CEO would need to identify any risks involved and ensure that any contact is bcc'd to another Trustee.

Donations made by vulnerable adults would need to be identified (e.g. by unusual patterns, repeated donations etc.). In practice, all of the regular donors are known to the Treasurer and so unusual patterns of donations should be readily identifiable and investigated to see if there are any safeguarding issues.

3.3. Sales enquiries

Telephone sales enquiries are handled by our agent Verite. Verite will be briefed to identify any potential safeguarding concerns and to make an immediate report to the Safeguarding Officer.

3.4. Social Media

Social media posts are made by Trustees, the CEO, or a marketing contractor. These will be monitored by the Board of Trustees to ensure that the content is appropriate and that safeguarding principles are observed. The charity's policy is that all responses to comments are made publicly or if a private response is warranted, this will be copied to other Trustees as in 3.2 above.

3.5. Vetting of video participants

It is essential that all participants in videos created by Biblical Frameworks are vetted to ensure that any safeguarding issues – either past or current are exposed. This will be done by relevant background research and requiring participants to complete a self-disclosure process prior to any filming.

4. Responding to allegations of abuse

In all cases of alleged abuse the procedure will be as follows:

1. The person in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse should report concerns as soon as possible to the Safeguarding Officer.
2. Following receipt of safeguarding concerns about a child, young person or vulnerable adult, the Safeguarding Officer should contact the local Social Services or Police.
3. Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above – including parents or carers unless specifically advised to do so by Social Services.
4. The role of the Safeguarding Officer is to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information on to statutory agencies that have a legal duty to investigate. It is not the role of the Safeguarding Officer, or anyone within Biblical Frameworks to investigate allegations and concerns.
5. A written record of the concerns should be made as soon as practically possible (ideally within 1 hour) in accordance with these procedures and kept in a secure place. The written record should include what has been disclosed and how it was disclosed. The date, time, location and people present should also be included in the written record.
6. It is, of course, the right of any individual as a citizen to make a direct referral to the safeguarding agencies. If the individual with the concern feels that the Safeguarding Officer has not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement with the Safeguarding Officer as to the appropriateness of a referral, they are free to contact an outside agency direct.
7. Parents or carers will not be contacted unless advised to do so, having contacted Children's Social Services (or thirtyone:eight).
8. Medical help will be sought if needed urgently, informing the doctor of any suspicions.
9. There may also be a requirement under law to make a referral to the DBS (or Disclosure Scotland) who hold the lists of people barred from working with children, young people and vulnerable adults – this will require discussion with the relevant children's services for the relevant location.

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5. Safeguarding Officer and Trustee training and review

The Safeguarding Officer will ensure the Trustees are given appropriate safeguarding awareness training and arrange an annual review of safeguarding.