# Hamilton South Baptist Church

# Child Protection Policy

## Purpose

* To promote the wellbeing of children in our care through the prevention of child abuse and neglect.
* To support families/whānau to protect their children.
* To support the roles of the New Zealand Police and Child, Youth and Family in the investigation of suspected abuse, and to meet legal requirements in reporting of suspected/alleged abuse to these agencies.
* To provide a safe environment, free from physical, emotional, verbal or sexual abuse.
* To ensure that the laws of the land are met as applicable.

**Roles**

* We will appoint a contact person. The contact person will be responsible for determining the appropriate actions, including notification of relevant authorities, in accordance with legal requirements and the Baptist Union of New Zealand Administration Manual.
* If the allegation is against the contact person, we will contact the Baptist Union of New Zealand.

**Process**

* Where abuse or neglect is suspected/alleged, the contact person will take written details, and the record will be signed by the complainant.
* At all times, we will follow the procedures as set out in the Baptist Union of New Zealand Administration Manual.
* Where the child is at risk of immediate harm, contact the police. If possible, remove the child from the situation. Notify the contact person.
* We will engage in training opportunities for staff and volunteer leaders in recognising signs of abuse or neglect.
* We will seek to continue to support those involved and affected, where abuse or neglect has been alleged or confirmed.

**Documents**

* Our child protection policy is governed by the following documents:
  + The Baptist Union of New Zealand Administration Manual.
  + The Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act 1989.
  + The Vulnerable Children Act 2014.

## Review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis or at such other times as deemed necessary.

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| **Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **Date Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |