

Registered Sex Offender Procedure

1. When it is learned that a convicted sex offender is seeking involvement in the fellowship either as a member or regular attendee, the Board should meet privately with the offender as quickly as possible.
2. The Board will ask the Offender to sign a release form so that the Board can contact his/her sex offender treatment provider and/or parole officer.
3. The Board should ask if treatment providers are members the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ASTA). The treatment provider and/or parole officer should be asked for their professional assessment of the likelihood that the sex offender will re-offend and whether restrictions other than the standard Limited Access Agreement ought to be placed on the person's participation. It will be helpful to know the number, timing, and nature of offenses. Such information allows consideration of different situations. The Board may decide to ask the offender to go for a professional assessment with a therapist who specializes in working with sex offenders. The Board may provide the funding for this assessment. If the offender refuses permission to contact the treatment provider and/or parole officer or refuses to go for an assessment, the Board may refuse participation in any congregation activity.
4. If the professional assessment indicates that the offender has completed or is participating successfully in treatment and is not at high risk for recidivism, the Board may choose to develop a Limited Access Agreement to limit access. If the offender has a partner in the community, that person should be involved in developing the Non-Contact Agreement as well.
5. If the offender refuses to sign Limited Access Agreement or if the professional assessment indicates high risk for re-offending, it is appropriate to deny the offender access to congregation functions and church property. An offender who refuses to sign a Limited Access Agreement should know that if they enter the congregation or its property, they will be asked to leave. If the offender further refuses, the local police will be called for assistance.
6. The Board will meet every 6 months with any individual with whom it has a Non-Contact (Limited Access) Agreement to review the arrangement and address any concerns.
7. The Fellowship Coordinator, Board members, childcare providers, and anyone involved in Religious Education or other youth programming need to be aware of all Limited Access Agreements. Beyond that, the Board should decide who in the congregation needs to be aware of a Limited Access Agreement. The congregation should be aware of the policies.
8. UU Behavior Policy has been developed to keep children safe. The Board will share the name of any individual with whom it has a Non-Contact Agreement with any parent who requests it in a private meeting.

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9. In sharing information appropriately, it is also important to remain aware of confidentiality and privacy for all involved. Copies of files including Limited Access Agreement information should be treated with care and kept in a secure file drawer.
10. If legal questions arise, the Board should contact a lawyer who can provide information and advice informed by local and state statutes that apply.

Reasons for Excluding an Offender from All Congregation Activities

- Refusal to allow the Board to contact the treatment provider and/or parole officer.
- Refusal to go for a risk assessment with a qualified therapist.
- Report by a treatment provider and/or parole officer that the offender is at too high risk for recidivism.
- Refusal to sign a Limited Access Agreement.
- Refusal to comply with the requirements of the Limited Access Agreement.

Once an offender decides that they can comply with these conditions, the process would begin again to reassess the individual and see if they could be welcomed into the life of the congregation anew.

Sample Limited Access Agreement

The Northeast Iowa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship affirms the dignity and worth of all persons. We are committed to being a religious community open to those who are in need of worshipping with us, especially in times of serious personal troubles. However, based on your background, we have concerns about your contact with children and youth in our congregation. The following guidelines are designed to reduce the risk to both you and them of an incident or accusation.

We welcome you to our fellowship and our membership but your participation will be limited to ensure the safety of our children and youth and to assure that you will not be subject to future accusations. Within these guidelines, the fellowship welcomes your participation in adult worship services, coffee hour, committee meetings, adult education, all adult social events, and well supervised intergenerational events.

You are to avoid all contact with children on congregation property or congregation-sponsored events. This includes the following:

- Please do not talk with children.
- Please do not volunteer or agree to lead, chaperone or participate in events for children and youth including such things as religious education classes, stories or talks for worship, youth group events, activities during intergenerational events, driving or otherwise transporting children and/or youth.
- Please remain in the presence of an adult who knows your situation at all times when children are present.
- If a child in the congregation approaches you, either at church or in a community place, politely and immediately excuse yourself from the situation.
- Please avoid being in the building unsupervised when activities involving children are in session.

I, _____, accept that the following people will be told of my circumstances in order for them to protect the children/young people for whom they care: the Fellowship Coordinator, Board members, child care providers, and anyone involved in Religious Education or other youth programming.

I have reviewed this Limited Access Agreement and the Convicted Sex Offender Policy and agree to abide by these provisions. I understand and agree that if I violate this agreement, I will be denied access to future church functions and church property. I understand that this agreement will be reviewed regularly every six months and will remain for an indefinite period.

Signature:

Date:

Witness:

Date:

NEIUUF Board Chair:

Date: