

**CHURCH ATTENDANCE / PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT  
FOR ADMITTED OR CONVICTED SEX OFFENDERS**



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## **Church Attendance / Participation Agreement for Admitted or Convicted Sex Offenders**

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MONTANA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

### **INTRODUCTION**

It is the moral and legal responsibility of every congregation in the Montana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists to take reasonable steps to provide an environment of physical/emotional safety of its members especially in reference to inappropriate sexual advances from any individual during church activities. These church activities include regularly scheduled events as well as less formal social contacts. While we desire to afford a spiritual ministry to sexual offenders, it is imperative that our churches take reasonable steps to provide all of our members and guests with a safe and secure environment while on the church premises or while participating in Church activities.

As long as that person remains honest and committed to God and to others, the local church shall encourage them to move toward treatment and recovery and shall commit their support as they continue. The church shall commit to providing a network of individuals who will hold the individual accountable as they grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. As Seventh-day Adventists, we believe that spiritual health is attainable for all individuals and our hope and prayer is that we will all *“grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”*

2 Peter 3:18

When an admitted or convicted sex offender attends, or wishes to attend a church the church board shall require that person to formally agree to the following:

When an admitted or convicted sex offender wishes to attend a church or regular church functions, the church board shall require that person to formally agree to the attendance/participation conditions of this document. Should that person refuse to agree and sign this document, that person shall not be allowed to attend worship and other church functions.

The local church body shall retain the original copy of this document and a duplicate shall be sent to the Montana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Should a person under the jurisdiction of this document wish to transfer membership to another congregation, a copy of this document shall be furnished to the new congregation.

If the person in question has not been convicted of sexual misconduct but is known to have offended, the church leadership should consult with the Montana Conference for guidance in appropriate levels of restrictions and supervision.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE CONTACT: Vice President for Administration  
Montana Conference, 175 Canyon View Rd., Bozeman, MT 59715 – 406-587-3101

## Accountability Partner Requirements

**DEFINITION OF AN ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNER:** For the purposes of this agreement an Accountability Partner shall be a mature adult of the same gender as participant, over 25 years of age, designated by the church board/equivalent or board of elders, with no sexual misconduct history, and not a relative of the person defined in this agreement. An Accountability Partner shall be provided a copy of this agreement, advised of its content and appropriate protocol should concerns arise, and be willing to take this responsibility seriously.

### PROTOCOLS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNER

1. The Accountability Partner(s) shall view a training DVD to help them become familiar with behaviors and indicators of potential misconduct.
2. There shall be a designated Accountability Partner. If there is a team of Accountability Partners they must report to the designated team leader.
3. If the participant is on parole, the Accountability Partner shall be aware of the terms of the parole.
4. The Accountability Partner shall be in the same room and observe the sex offender at all times while at any church function, including socials, potlucks and school events.
5. If the Accountability Partner is unable to supervise for any reason, another designated Accountability Partner shall be assigned. If no Accountability Partners are available, the sex offender shall not be allowed to attend that function.
6. The Accountability Partner shall accompany the participant when access to restroom facilities is needed.
7. Any observed inappropriate behavior shall be reported to the Accountability Partner team leader and pointed out to the participant.

### ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNER TEAM

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LEADER: \_\_\_\_\_

List of designated Accountability Partners (appropriate number for this agreement):


## Church Copy

I recognize the concerns and responsibilities of the church to ensure a safe environment for its members and wish to stipulate to the following conditions that would allow my participation in church activities:

1. I will not associate with any minors\* attending or participating in any church/school activity without an approved Accountability Partner. I will not sit next to a child\* and if a child sits next to me, I will move.
2. I will not linger in areas where children\* are being taught and will not go to any area where children's or youth ministries are being conducted. If I need to be where children are meeting, I will only do so with a church-appointed Accountability Partner.
3. I will not place myself into, or accept, any position of leadership or authority.
4. I will under no circumstances take a child home with me or transport them anywhere at anytime.
5. I will not develop any special relationships with minor children or their parents.
6. I will not go to a church member's home where children are present, for any meals, Bible study or get-togethers unless I have an approved Accountability Partner with me.
7. I agree to maintain an accountability network with individuals as defined by the church and make sure my whereabouts at church or church activities is known at all times.
8. I authorize the church to obtain information regarding myself from my parole officer, governmental agencies or other persons who might have information relative to my prior criminal convictions.
9. I agree to comply with any court-mandated restrictions, treatment, and/or requirements and recognize that these take precedence over any less restrictive parts of this agreement.
10. I understand and agree that the church, in fulfilling its responsibilities in providing a safe environment for its members and guests, may find it necessary to disclose an account of my past behavior and/or criminal history to parents, church leaders, and other persons who may need to have such information in order to meet their parental or supervisory responsibilities.
11. I understand that the provisions of this Participation Agreement do not create any personal and/or legal rights against the church that would afford me any claim or right of redress in any legal or administrative proceedings, nor does this agreement in any way preclude the church from exercising its U.S. Constitutional First Amendment rights pertaining to the church membership and/or discipline.
12. This agreement shall remain valid as long as I attend and/or participate in the activities of the church named in this document, and should I wish to transfer my attendance, participation, or membership to another congregation, a copy of this document will be sent to them.

\* The word "minors," "child" or "children" shall not include the participant's family members residing in his/her home.

I have read and understand the above conditions and agree to abide by them.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Local Church

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Local Church Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Church Official's Printed Name

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**Church Attendance / Participation Agreement for Admitted or Convicted Sex Offenders**

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MONTANA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

## Participant Copy

I recognize the concerns and responsibilities of the church to ensure a safe environment for its members and wish to stipulate to the following conditions that would allow my participation in church activities:

1. I will not associate with any minors\* attending or participating in any church/school activity without an approved Accountability Partner. I will not sit next to a child and if a child\* sits next to me, I will move.
2. I will not linger in areas where children\* are being taught and will not go to any area where children's or youth ministries are being conducted. If I need to be where children are meeting, I will only do so with a church-appointed Accountability Partner.
3. I will not place myself into, or accept, any position of leadership or authority.
4. I will under no circumstances take a child home with me or transport them anywhere at anytime.
5. I will not develop any special relationships with minor children or their parents.
6. I will not go to a church member's home where children are present, for any meals, Bible study, or get-togethers unless I have an approved Accountability Partner with me.
7. I agree to maintain an accountability network with individuals as defined by the church and make sure my whereabouts at church or church activities is known at all times.
8. I authorize the church to obtain information regarding myself from my parole officer, governmental agencies or other persons who might have information relative to my prior criminal convictions.
9. I agree to comply with any court-mandated restrictions, treatment, and/or requirements and recognize that these take precedence over any less restrictive parts of this agreement.
10. I understand and agree that the church, in fulfilling its responsibilities in providing a safe environment for its members and guests, may find it necessary to disclose an account of my past behavior and/or criminal history to parents, church leaders, and other persons who may need to have such information in order to meet their parental or supervisory responsibilities.
11. I understand that the provisions of this Participation Agreement do not create any personal and/or legal rights against the church that would afford me any claim or right of redress in any legal or administrative proceedings, nor does this agreement in any way preclude the church from exercising its U.S. Constitutional First Amendment rights pertaining to the church membership and/or discipline.
12. This agreement shall remain valid as long as I attend and/or participate in the activities of the church named in this document, and should I wish to transfer my attendance, participation, or membership to another congregation, a copy of this document will be sent to them.

\*The word "minors," "child" or "children" shall not include the participant's family members residing in his/her home.

I have read and understand the above conditions and agree to abide by them.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Local Church

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Local Church Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Church Official's Printed Name

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## Church Attendance / Participation Agreement for Admitted or Convicted Sex Offenders

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MONTANA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

### Montana Conference Copy

I recognize the concerns and responsibilities of the church to ensure a safe environment for its members and wish to stipulate to the following conditions that would allow my participation in church activities:

1. I will not associate with any minors\* attending or participate in any church/school activity without an approved Accountability Partner. I will not sit next to a child\* and if a child sits next to me, I will move.
2. I will not linger in areas where children\* are being taught and will not go to any area where children's or youth ministries are being conducted. If I need to be where children are meeting, I will only do so with a church-appointed Accountability Partner.
3. I will not place myself into, or accept, any position of leadership or authority.
4. I will under no circumstances take a child home with me or transport them anywhere at anytime.
5. I will not develop any special relationships with minor children or their parents.
6. I will not go to a church member's home where children are present, for any meals, Bible study, or get-togethers unless I have an approved Accountability Partner with me.
7. I agree to maintain an accountability network with individuals as defined by the church and make sure my whereabouts at church or church activities is known at all times.
8. I authorize the church to obtain information regarding myself from my parole officer, governmental agencies or other persons who might have information relative to my prior criminal convictions.
9. I agree to comply with any court-mandated restrictions, treatment, and/or requirements and recognize that these take precedence over any less restrictive parts of this agreement.
10. I understand and agree that the church, in fulfilling its responsibilities in providing a safe environment for its members and guests, may find it necessary to disclose an account of my past behavior and/or criminal history to parents, church leaders, and other persons who may need to have such information in order to meet their parental or supervisory responsibilities.
11. I understand that the provisions of this Participation Agreement do not create any personal and/or legal rights against the church that would afford me any claim or right of redress in any legal or administrative proceedings, nor does this agreement in any way preclude the church from exercising its U.S. Constitutional First Amendment rights pertaining to the church membership and/or discipline.
12. This agreement shall remain valid as long as I attend and/or participate in the activities of the church named in this document, and should I wish to transfer my attendance, participation, or membership to another congregation, a copy of this document will be sent to them.

\*The word "minors," "child" or "children" shall not include the participant's family members residing in his/her home.

I have read and understand the above conditions and agree to abide by them. If at any point I break one of the above conditions, I recognize that I shall not be allowed to attend church activities in the Montana Conference.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Local Church

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Local Church Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Church Official's Printed Name

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## Church Attendance / Participation Agreement for Admitted or Convicted Sex Offenders

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MONTANA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

### Accountability Partner Copy

The following conditions and restrictions for church attendance/participation have been agreed to by:

1. I will not associate with any minors\* attending or participate in any church/school activity without an approved Accountability Partner. I will not sit next to a child\* and if a child sits next to me, I will move.
2. I will not linger in areas where children\* are being taught and will not go to any area where children's or youth ministries are being conducted. If I need to be where children are meeting, I will only do so with a church-appointed Accountability Partner.
3. I will not place myself into, or accept, any position of leadership or authority.
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\*The word "minors," "child" or "children" shall not include the participant's family members residing in the home.

I have read and understand the above conditions and agree to abide by them.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Local Church

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Local Church Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Church Official's Printed Name