

## BTS Online Training – Case Study responses

Hi,

Thanks again for doing the Breaking the Silence Online Training. We've prepared the following responses to guide and inform your thinking as you work through the case studies on page 17, 18 and 19 of the training workbook. You may think of other responses that also might apply. Every situation is different and the exact response will depend on the details of a particular case. The purpose of the case studies is to get you thinking about how you apply safe ministry practices, and we hope our potential responses will help with your thinking.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

Enjoy!

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Questions (Some may not apply)	Case Study potential responses
<b>Steven</b>	
1. What is the key issue?	Showing pornographic material to a minor. Notifiable circumstance and also criminal.
2. What do you need to do to make the person safe?	Assure him he has done the right thing in telling you. Name the brother's actions as wrong.  Discuss strategies to take action to prevent it from happening again.
3. What is the first thing you would do/say in this situation?	As this is a notifiable circumstance, you are obligated to report to CPU.  If the pornography has involved images of children this will need to be reported to Police.  As Steven is under 16yo, his parents will need to be informed.
4. Who should you inform?	CPU, parents, minister.
5. Where should the conversation take place?	In a public area but where Steven can have some privacy to talk.
6. Does the situation describe abuse?	Yes.
7. Which elements of the Code of Conduct might apply?	Sexual exploitation.
8. What are the boundaries that need to be considered?	Steven is under 18yo. His brother may not be a member of the Presbyterian Church.
9. Are there other issues that concern you in this scenario that may not be covered by the Code of Conduct?	Impact on relationships within family.
10. What needs to happen for the code of Conduct to be kept and appropriate boundaries established?	Notify CPU, risk management strategies for Steven to prevent exposure to pornography again, offer pastoral support/counselling to family.

<b>Maura (entitled Elspeth)</b>	
1. What is the key issue?	Potential misconduct by an elder.
2. What do you need to do to make the person safe?	Low risk to personal safety. Reassure them that you will take steps to protect her and that sexual harassment will not be tolerated.
3. What is the first thing you would do/say in this situation?	Listen and believe her, provide pastoral care.
4. Who should you inform?	Minister, CPU
5. Where should the conversation take place?	In a public place where she can have some privacy.
6. Does the situation describe abuse?	No.
7. Which elements of the Code of Conduct might apply?	Sexual harassment
8. What are the boundaries that need to be considered?	Ensuring Maura is able to establish personal boundaries. Guidelines on home visitation for elders.
9. Are there other issues that concern you in this scenario that may not be covered by the Code of Conduct?	Carer burden. Mental illness.
10. What needs to happen for the code of Conduct to be kept and appropriate boundaries established?	Get Maura's consent to inform minister. Minister to interview Maura and elder separately to establish what happened. Elder not to visit on their own if no one else home.
<b>Jack</b>	
1. What is the key issue?	Potential physical abuse.
2. What do you need to do to make the person safe?	Not in immediate danger and no longer attending Youth.
3. What is the first thing you would do/say in this situation?	Show empathy, acknowledging you are there for him if he wants to talk and saying it's "not ok" for abuse to happen.
4. Who should you inform?	Leadership, leadership to talk to parents.
5. Where should the conversation take place?	In a public place where you can be visible.
6. Does the situation describe abuse?	Need more information.
7. Which elements of the Code of Conduct might apply?	Physical abuse. Providing adequate supervision.
8. What are the boundaries that need to be considered?	Youth group rules Leader recruitment and training Response to incidents.
9. Are there other issues that concern you in this scenario that may not be covered by the Code of Conduct?	Reputation and relationship with Youth parents Is Session exercising effective oversight of the Youth Ministry?

10. What needs to happen for the code of Conduct to be kept and appropriate boundaries established?	Investigation by leadership into Youth and what contributed to injuries from Youth. Responsive risk management strategies.
<b>Mitchell</b>	
1. What is the key issue?	Potential domestic abuse.
2. What do you need to do to make the person safe?	Ask if Amy is safe at home. Inform her that the Church does not tolerate abuse and leaders need to be suitable for their position.
3. What is the first thing you would do/say in this situation?	Explore if the family needs any practical assistance. Ask if Amy is willing to elaborate on her statements.
4. Who should you inform?	Ask for Amy's consent to discuss with leadership/minister.
5. Where should the conversation take place?	In a safe place that Amy feels comfortable to talk.
6. Does the situation describe abuse?	Potentially. Need more information.
7. Which elements of the Code of Conduct might apply?	Leaders must not engage in domestic violence. Any children?
8. What are the boundaries that need to be considered?	Amy's consent. She does not attend the church.
9. Are there other issues that concern you in this scenario that may not be covered by the Code of Conduct?	Are there children involved and if so are they safe from abuse?
10. What needs to happen for the code of Conduct to be kept and appropriate boundaries established?	With Amy's consent, further investigating Mitchell's behavior towards her. May need to be reported to CPU if it is a notifiable circumstance.
<b>Miriam</b>	
1. What is the key issue?	Another adult should be present. Miriam should not be alone with Matt.
2. What do you need to do to make the person safe?	Explore strategies that will allow her parents be present or that children/young people are not left on their own.
3. What is the first thing you would do/say in this situation?	Encourage Miriam's enthusiasm for serving. Encourage her to have practices that adhere to the Code of Conduct.
4. Who should you inform?	Leadership.
5. Where should the conversation take place?	In a place with visible surveillance.
6. Does the situation describe abuse?	No.
7. Which elements of the Code of Conduct might apply?	Potential for situation to be seen as grooming behaviour. Is Session exercising effective oversight of this ministry?
8. What are the boundaries that need to be considered?	Young people not being on their own with an adult.

9. Are there other issues that concern you in this scenario that may not be covered by the Code of Conduct?	
10. What needs to happen for the code of Conduct to be kept and appropriate boundaries established?	Risk management strategies regarding young people in homes.
Lucy	
1. Which elements of the Code of Conduct might apply?	Wisdom in relationships issue. The Youth groups are not connected so there is no special care relationship which needs to be considered. Both are adults.  Sexual boundaries.
8. What are the boundaries that need to be considered?	
Fynn	
1. What is the key issue?	Potential child abuse.
2. What do you need to do to make the person safe?	Check Fynn is not at risk. Reassure Fynn that he has done the right thing in letting you know.
3. What is the first thing you would do/say in this situation?	Assure Fynn that abuse of any kind is wrong and needs to be addressed. Ask permission to speak to the teenager. Encourage teenager to speak to his parents.
4. Who should you inform?	CPU, leadership.
5. Where should the conversation take place?	Somewhere which has public surveillance.
6. Does the situation describe abuse?	Potentially, not enough information.
7. Which elements of the Code of Conduct might apply?	Responding to disclosure of potential child abuse.
8. What are the boundaries that need to be considered?	Limit of confidentiality. If it is Fynn's friend, no connection with church or his family.
9. Are there other issues that concern you in this scenario that may not be covered by the Code of Conduct?	Duty of care.
10. What needs to happen for the code of Conduct to be kept and appropriate boundaries established?	Speak to teenager and parents. FACS may be notified depending on what other information is available.