

7. Copyright Laws

8. Weapons in Church

9. Weddings

10. Cemeteries

Conclusion: _____



Title: Legal Reporting and Pointers for the Church

Moderator: Dr. Tom Shepherd

Panelists: Dr. David Gibbs, Christian Law Association;
Ben Hobbs; Dr. Mike Lester

QUOTE: “Ignorance is not compliance”

“Let all things be done decently and in order.” (1 Corinthians 14:40)

“And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s. And they marvelled at him.” (Mark 12:17)

The key is to limit liability of the church and protect the members, visitors, and staff.

Seek professional help in every instance (attorney, accountant or CPA, insurance professional).

Areas of Compliance and Reporting:

1. Mandatory Reporting

Laws vary from state to state. Behaviors that may be covered by mandatory reporting laws may include:

- Child abuse and neglect
- Elder abuse and neglect
- Abuse and neglect of mentally or physically disabled individuals
- Suicide threats
- Other threats to the well-being of others

- A. “Reasonable Cause”
 - B. Incident Reports
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2. Payroll

- A. Wages
 - B. Federal and State Withholding Taxes
 - C. Social Security
 - D. Housing Allowances
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3. Unrelated Business Income

- A. IRS Publication 1828 “Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations”
 - B. IRS Publication 598 “Tax on Unrelated Business Income of Exempt Organizations”
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4. Other Tax Issues

- A. Sales Tax
 - B. Real Estate or Property Tax
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5. Insurance Coverage

- A. General and Professional Liability
 - B. Property Insurance
 - C. Commercial Auto
 - D. Worker’s Compensation (varies by state)
 - E. Umbrella
 - F. Release and Indemnification Forms (activities; camps; etc.)
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6. Confidentiality of Information

- A. Pastoral Counseling
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