

June 2022

THE CHURCH GUARDIAN

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM SHEEPDOG CHURCH SECURITY



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TOP NEWS STORY

CHURCHGOERS HOG-TIED MAN ACCUSED OF CARRYING OUT CA MASS SHOOTING

The man accused of carrying out a mass shooting at a Church in California was subdued by parishioners, authorities said.

During a press conference Sunday, officials said the alleged shooter, an Asian man, was hog-tied with an electrical cord when officers arrived at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Laguna Hills.

Source: [CLICK HERE](#)

TRAINING SPOTLIGHT

Use of Force Laws

Let's face it – sometimes, the threats you face will need to be met with more than just accurate planning or expert verbal de-escalation. While most people are, at heart, kind and good, there are predators among us who seek to prey on those they perceive as being weaker than them, or who are “easy marks”. All too often, that means the church, and the church congregation.

Understanding and applying use of force laws can help ensure that you're able to mitigate these sorts of situations while safeguarding your flock. The Basic Use of Force Laws module is designed to help you understand what use of force laws are intended to allow, how they can play a role in safeguarding your flock, and their limitations. It also explains the legal responsibilities that apply to your Church Safety Team members, and explains how to limit your criminal and civil liability in situations where force is used.



**Equip Yourself
with the Tools
needed to Protect
Houses of
Worship!**

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Learn More!

WEEKLY TEAM BRIEFING

Watch and Pray

May's Theme

Nevertheless, we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them (Nehemiah 4:9).

Seven times in the New Testament, the advice is to watch and pray. Twice in the King James Version, Jesus used that exact phrase (Matt. 26:41; Mk. 13:33), a third time with “ye” inserted (Mk. 14:38), and a fourth also adding “therefore” (Lk. 21:36). Different phrasing is used in the other passages (Eph. 6:18; Col. 4:2; 1 Pet. 4:7). In all of these instances, the meaning is clear: while we are praying, we should also be watching. More than 400 years earlier, Nehemiah set this example in Jerusalem (Neh. 4:9).

In the Articles

See how this is used in the five May articles:

1. The Lesson Learned in “The Church in Sacramento Shooting, 2022” is, “Don’t let your guard down.”
2. “I Spy” (Spot an Assailant) tells us to be observant of those coming into the church.
3. In “Responder's Risk” (Use-of-Force Liabilities) we are to be aware of potential financial and legal consequences for using force.
4. “Marked Abusers” (Dru Sjodin National Sex Offenders Public Website) describes a resource to use in watching out for sexual offenders.
5. “They Have You Covered” (U.S. LawShield) is not necessarily about watching, but about legal watchdogs (lawyers) who are ready to serve.

Watch and Pray

Eyes and Ears Open

Security and safety teams in churches use various names. Two of them are Eyes & Ears and Watchers. These two names convey the idea that team members are actively alert, not passively waiting for something to happen but watching out for any signs of danger or of someone needing help. For example, when the congregation is praying, most with heads bowed and eyes closed, Safety Team members have their heads up and their eyes open, praying in spirit while watching with eyes. If Brother Smith slumps over, a team member is there before the end of the prayer. Or if someone comes in and marches to the platform (not to the altar), the team member is ready to intervene.

Action Points

- ◆ Practice watchfulness, intentionally interpreting posture and facial expressions, behavior, bulges in clothing, objects that look out-of-place, etc.
- ◆ Learn from training and other resources what to look for and how to recognize clues to someone's mood or intentions.
- ◆ Manage your nutrition and get enough rest to enable alertness.

The Church in Sacramento Shooting

A MONTHLY FEATURE LOOKING AT CHURCH SHOOTING INCIDENTS

From the Bible

Killing one's own family members is not a new phenomenon. Instances of this are recorded in the Old Testament, with the first case being Cain's murder of Abel.

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8).

And [Abimelech] went unto his father's house at Ophrah, and slew his brethren the sons of Jerubbaal (Gideon) ... (Judges 9:5a).

Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, "Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him," ... And the servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded (2 Samuel 13:28a, 29a).

Now when Jehoram was risen up to the kingdom of his father, he strengthened himself, and slew all his brethren with the sword, and divers also of the princes of Israel (2 Chronicles 21:4).

But when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all [her grandsons*] (2 Chronicles 22:10).

*But Joash, the youngest, was rescued by his aunt.

Introduction

There are many news stories of killings in churches, and many more of one person killing members of his or her own family. Both types of killings are in this incident. As with so many other church killings, this is a result of domestic violence and possibly mental illness.

The Incident

It was early Wednesday evening. In a meeting hall at the Arden Arcade campus of The Church in Sacramento (that's the church's name), a church elder brought in three young girls, aged 9, 10, and 13, for a supervised visit with their father. The elder, a family friend, was the court-appointed chaperone for supervised visits. This was according to a restraining order obtained by their mother.

News stories do not tell who arrived first, the father or his daughters, but he had a firearm and shot the elder and his daughters, then himself. The first shot was heard by the pastor, who was upstairs. He ran outside and called 911 at 5:07. Responding deputies found five persons shot. Four were already dead. One received CPR, but died.

The Killer

The father, age 39, had lived with the mother of his children for about thirteen years. The older two daughters were born in Mexico and the youngest in the United States. He became an illegal when he overstayed his visa. ICE had a retainer for him, but California's sanctuary state law kept law enforcement agencies from honoring the retainer unless he had been arrested for certain violent crimes. This is mentioned in the news accounts, since less than a week before the shooting he had been released from jail (for assaulting an officer while being arrested for DUI).

In filing for the restraining order, the mother claimed he had been abusing her for over ten of those years. She suggested that he was mentally unstable, though no professional diagnosis of this has been made public. He had an anger control problem, and the DUI incident indicates this may have been alcohol related. The restraining order specified that he was to not own or possess firearms.

The church's media statement calls all of the family "members" of the church. They had attended for about five years. At the time of the shooting, the father lived in a room in a separate building on the church campus, since he had to leave his residence, and was working at a local restaurant. He had no firearms when he moved in.

The mother was out-of-town at the time of the shooting. We do not know whether she would have gone with her daughters if she had been in town. If so, then she was spared by the circumstance.

The Church

The Church in Sacramento is part of a global non-denominational fellowship with more than 2,000 congregations. It holds services in English, Spanish, and Chinese and considers all born-again believers as members.

The elder who was killed was born in Sacramento and raised in The Church. He attended Bible school in Taiwan, had been educated in California as an engineer and employed by the state. He helped design and build the church building where his life ended. Later, he and his wife served as missionaries in Eastern Europe. The last decade of his life he served as a church elder in his home church. This time included the attendance of the killer and his family.

The Impact

Naturally, there was shock and grief in the Sacramento area. Counselors went to the girls' schools. A Go-Fund-Me account was set up to pay for the funerals. The most significant impacts so far have been (as expressed in editorials) a fresh look at how mental illness is treated in California and considerations for amending the sanctuary state law. It is too early to see what security measures will be made for The Church in Sacramento.

Lesson Learned: Don't let your guard down.

How do we stay on guard? In this case there were a number of things to watch:

- ◆ When trying to help people, even when we're friends of the family, we need to pay attention to the red flags. Consider serious problems they have, such as alcohol abuse and poor anger management.
- ◆ The fact that the father was under a restraining order was a red flag. This was because of violent abuse. Many estranged partners have killed their children. Many visitations have been occasions of violence, even when supervised. The risk increases when the subject is suicidal.
- ◆ The father of the girls did not have a firearm earlier, but someone who doesn't have a gun then can get one later, even illegally, and hide it.
 - ◆ If he came into the meeting room early, he could have hidden the weapon before the others arrived.
 - ◆ If he came in after the others, he could have entered when they weren't looking, holding the gun ready to shoot.

- ◆ Have backup. Don't go in completely alone. A safety team member or a staff person could observe, being positioned ready to intervene.
- ◆ The meeting room should have some means of surveillance.
 - ◆ Staff members or safety team members could watch approaches to the room, alert for signs of a weapon.
 - ◆ Monitored cameras would show a firearm being placed for use before the meeting or one being carried to the meeting. Outdoor cameras might be able to show someone bringing a rifle - even a short one - into a building.

Conclusion

It is a multiple tragedy when a person kills family members, a family friend and church elder who is trying to help, and himself, and does it in a church. What lesson can we learn from this recent incident?

Recommended Resources

Recommended resources are Show Notes, the relevant Church Security Guide article, and Safety Member Certification training.

Show Notes (Lesson Learned)

Kris records a videocast on this article and posts it on [Sheepdog Church Security's YouTube channel](#). The audio is put into a [podcast](#). When the videocast and podcast for this article are posted, the link to "Church Shooting Lessons Learned" is beneath the video screen under "Sheepdog Church Security Academy." The notes will be available for a month after the videocast.[1]

Church Security Guide

"[Church Safety Teams and Active Shooter Training](#)" is one of nine articles in the [Church Security Guide](#) - the tab is on the menu bar of the SDCS [website](#).[2]

Training

Church Safety Teams are advised to have all their members trained and certified through the [Safety Member Certification program](#). The training modules - including "Active Shooter Response v4" - are available in three formats: Team Training (classroom), Individual Training (online), and Online Events (live Zoom classes).[3]

There Is More

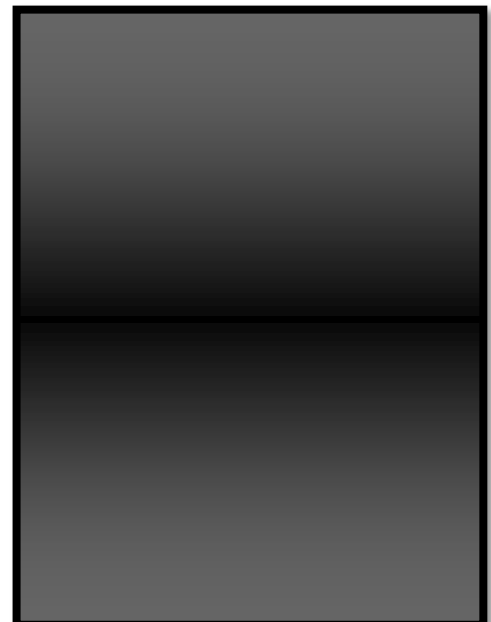
This is the first weekly article for May. Following are articles on Active Shooter Response, Basic Use of Force Laws, Sex Offenders Registry, and U.S. LawShield.

[Article References](#)



PROTECT
MY MINISTRY

Select the Right People for Your Ministry
Protect your flock with a proven church volunteer screening service.
Sheepdogs [click here](#) for special access.



I SPY

Spotting an Assailant

Introduction

Two or three generations ago, "I Spy" was a childhood game of searching for hidden objects. A finder called out, "I spy," then picked up and displayed the object. There are now computer "I Spy" games for children and youth (even adults) with images or text hidden in plain view.

Church security is not a game, but we are on the lookout for hidden objects and other signs of danger. We do not call out, "I spy," but take reasonable measures to protect the flock from perceived perils.

In the News

White Settlement, Texas, December 29, 2019 - A mentally ill man who had previously visited the church several times asking for money came in wearing an obvious disguise and an over-sized coat. When he entered the sanctuary just before the service, the security director and security team members noticed and kept watching, and one of the TV cameras followed him.

As Communion was being served, the visitor stood up and approached one of the servers, pulling a sawed-off shotgun from his coat. A team member approached, pulling out his handgun. Before he could aim, the man with the shotgun shot and fatally wounded the server and the team member, but he would die before them. The security team leader had pulled his gun and was taking aim. When he had a clear shot, he fired, hitting the assailant in the head.[2]

Keeping watch on the suspect after he entered the sanctuary enabled a quick response (6 seconds total time), and the team leader was credited with saving many lives. However, some analysts pointed out that earlier detection could have led to a non-violent conclusion, or at least kept the assailant out of the sanctuary.[3]

For there are certain men crept in unawares ...
(Jude 1:4a).

"Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?"
(1 Kings 3:9)

And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding
(Proverbs 7:7).

Witchita Falls, Texas, May 31, 2017 - On a Wednesday evening, someone spotted a suspicious person and called 911. A woman drove into the parking lot, got out of the car, and asked people in the lot (presumably those there for the mid-week service) for a ride. She ended up walking to a car dealership where she got into a car with keys left in it, drove it away, then abandoned it. She was later caught by police while walking along a street. They recognized her from the description of a suspicious person at the church.[4]

St. George, Utah, June 27, 2017 - A suspicious man was observed behind a church and reported to 911. Police arrived, and a chase on foot through the neighborhood ensued. The man was caught, and he and his girlfriend were arrested. They turned out to be purse-snatching suspects from a nearby town.[5]

Show Notes

This article, "I Spy" (Spotting an Assailant), is covered by Kris in a [podcast](#) and a [videocast](#). A link to the [Show Notes](#) (an article summary) is in the comment section beneath the videocast. These notes are available through the week following the video's posting. You can also subscribe to the videocasts.[6]

What Do You See?

Many of us have tried to find hidden objects in pictures or find the differences between two apparently identical images. This is a test of observational skills. In church security, it is essential to be observant, to detect signs that someone may be a potential threat. Three things we see are their appearance, their behavior, and indications they may be hiding a weapon.

Appearance

We know, generally speaking, that "Appearance is not everything." However, someone's appearance may provide clues to character or disposition. This can be especially true in a church.

What if someone comes to the door totally disheveled? That person may be totally ignorant of how to groom and dress oneself for public meetings, or maybe they don't care how they look, but it could indicate mental illness or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol. They might not be able to look any better because of their financial situation. However, we should not discriminate against someone who is just poor (James 2:1-4).

Our first rational thought is, "This person needs help." But what kind of help? We may be tempted to ignore this person, but kind intervention will (1) let them know they are noticed, (2) let them know someone cares, and (3) has the potential of defusing anger or resentment they may have.

How about an over-sized coat? Or a hint of body armor? Or, as with the West Freeway shooter, an apparent disguise? This should raise questions about their intentions.

There are other out-of-place appearances which should make us at least curious, if not suspicious. These include sweatiness, a pale or flush face, or certain facial expressions.

Behavioral Clues

A person's behavior is more telling than appearance alone, and it may actually tie in with how they appear.

A general behavioral clue is violating social norms. This was emphasized by Simon Osamoh in his interview with Kris.[7] One example is going to the podium during preaching or singing and while the congregation is seated. Closely related is overtly rude behavior, such as refusing to put out a cigarette when asked to do so by a greeter or usher.

Other behavioral clues are nervousness, reluctance to make eye contact, overly friendly (in a way that seems fake), furtiveness (being sneaky or trying to hide something), shifting the feet, and wringing the hands. Another cause for concern is someone who is argumentative or acts disgruntled. What if you say, "Good morning," and the visitor grumps, "What's good about it?" Or you ask, "How are you?" and the reply is, "Why should you care?"

Some behaviors by themselves might not be threatening, but may be if combined with other signs, such as sweaty when it's not hot, flush face, paleness, facial twitch, etc. (these may also indicate a medical condition).

A person's speech may be a clue to hostile intent, especially if they sound hateful, angry, or extreme. As an example, the killer at Emanuel AME in 2015 was argumentative during the Bible study.

*Therefore let us not
sleep, as do others;
but let us watch and
be sober
(1 Thessalonians
5:6)*

Indications of Weapons

Spotting hidden weapons is trickier than in years past. More states now allow holders of concealed carry weapon (CCW) permits to bring their arms into public meetings. Individual churches do have the option of not allowing them. Some states, such as Ohio, are shifting to constitutional carry (no permit required).

However, as a general rule, persons with murderous intentions tend to carry weapons differently than do legal CCW persons. Most CCW handguns are smaller caliber with lighter magazines, effective for defending against one or a few attackers at close range, and kept in holsters designed for CCW.

Weapons are usually easier to detect or suspect if the intent is mass casualties. Rifles and larger caliber handguns with higher-capacity magazines are preferred for mass murder. A .45 caliber, 11 mm, or larger handgun is harder to properly conceal and hard to draw out quickly. This is even more so for a rifle, even with a shortened barrel. If kept in a pocket, an 11 mm makes a tell-tale bulge.

This is where over-sized or heavily-padded coats are a concern. The Columbine shooters hid weapons in trench coats. The West Freeway church shooter hid a sawed-off shotgun in an over-sized coat. Engaging in conversation with a person overdressed for the weather gives the greeter or Safety Team member (and another safety person) more time to look them over for suspicious bulges which may indicate a weapon. Another means of concealment for a larger weapon is a backpack, book bag, briefcase, or (as in movies) a guitar or violin case.

The use of hand-held metal detectors is controversial for churches because they seem so uninviting. You could ask certain persons whether they have a concealed weapon. Honest people would likely answer truthfully. If a suspected person answers, "No," and you ask if you can scan them, their reaction may be revealing. Someone may object on grounds of privacy. A would-be killer might have a more agitated, and therefore more revealing, response.

Inside and Outside

It is good to observe people as they come through the door. It is better to also observe what is going on outside, especially in the parking lot. In two of the news stories, suspicious persons were spotted outside the church building. This gives you more time to see signs of trouble and a chance to keep trouble out.

How do we do this? First of all, if you can, have parking lot attendants or monitors. Secondly, have a Safety Team member in the foyer positioned to also see out the windows. Ideally, security cameras would enable one person to monitor the outdoors all around the building.

*Now I beseech you,
brethren, mark
them which cause
divisions and
offences ...
(Romans 16:17a).*

Training Note

First of all, train the church greeters in observation. They are the first contact with visitors inside the church.

Sheepdog Church Security recommends that each Church Safety Team should have all members trained and certified through the Safety Team Certification program. Active Shooter Response is one of the training modules.[1] One advantage is that all members would have the same training, and therefore understand each other.

Three modes are available: Church Hosted classes with training materials, Self-Paced training for individuals with online lessons, and Online Events with live Zoom classes.

Training is more effective when team members participate in drills. Team members can also self-drill by consciously looking for signs of weapons, intentions, etc. in people. After some time, close observation becomes ingrained. Members can drill each other with point-and-ask. When someone goes by, ask the other team member, "Over by the door, what do you see?" or "Do you see that bulge?" or other questions.

Conclusion

Beginning with observing actions and people outside and those coming in the door, be alert for signs that someone is intent and armed for violence.

There Is More

With five Mondays, there are five weekly articles for May. The other four are "The Church in Sacramento Shooting, 2022" (Lesson Learned), "Responder's Risk" (Use-of-Force Liabilities), "Marked Abusers" (National Sex Offender Data Base), and "They Have You Covered" (U.S. LawShield).

[Article References](#)

RESPONDER'S RISK

Use-of-Force Liabilities

Introduction

Persons helping other people may be misunderstood and accused of mistakes, poor performance, or wrongdoing. This is especially true when responding to a medical emergency or dealing with violence and disruption. This is not always due to a genuine misunderstanding; there are people who take almost every opportunity to file damage or injury claims, lawsuits, or criminal complaints.



In the first place, we should be trained to respond and be careful how we do it. In the second place, we need legal help when facing civil or criminal legal action.

In the News

White Settlement, Texas, December 29, 2019; September 20, 2020 - On December 29, 2019, Jack Wilson, head of security at the West Freeway Church of Christ, shot and killed an assailant who had already fatally shot two church members. In spite of obvious evidence for justifiable homicide, the case went to a grand jury for consideration. On September 23, 2020, almost ten months after the incident, the grand jury decided to not indict him.[2]

* Note: Even when doing everything right, you may need a lawyer, especially when deadly force is involved.

Vanceboro, North Carolina, January 5, 2020 - A man who had already assaulted a female relative broke into a vehicle and drove it to a church near Vanceboro. Obviously intoxicated, he was refused entry by those at the door. He then tried to force his way in. Multiple calls were made to 911. Responding deputies found him fighting with church members. The deputies subdued him with a Taser and arrested him. Several charges were filed against him. None of the church members, including ushers and greeters, were charged. The man's relative said he was high on meth.[3]

* Note: Church members (Ushers? Greeters?) were resisting forced entry, and the offender was the only one charged.

Fort Worth, Texas, March 25, 2018 - At the Potter's House in Fort Worth, a woman who had been a volunteer for about a year argued with an elder over whether she could be on stage during services. The argument became very heated. The volunteer was asked to leave, and she refused. Church security tried to get her to leave, and two police officers who were there came backstage to subdue her. They forced her to the floor before handcuffing her.

Six months later, she sued the church and the security guards, claiming excess force was used. She also claimed that asking her to leave was unfair and unjustified. Police investigators reviewed video footage and concluded that the force used was not excessive.[4][5]

* Note: First, trouble may come from your own volunteers. Second, any use of force, even unarmed, can result in a lawsuit.

Show Notes

Kris covers "Responder's Risk" (Use-of-Force Liabilities) in a [videocast](#) and a [podcast](#). Beneath the videocast screen in the comments section is a link to the [Show Notes](#), essentially an article summary. This will be available for one week (for a *Lessons Learned* article, it is available for a month). You can subscribe to the [Sheepdog Church Security Academy](#) channel on YouTube.[6]

Legal Liability of Using Force

It is easy to think that the dangers of the use of force are physical: gunshot or stabbing wounds, or injuries (sprains, concussions, bruises, dislocated joints, etc.) from hits or falls. However, there are financial and legal liabilities: insurance claims, lawsuits, government restrictions, and criminal charges. Added to this is damage to the church's reputation from negative publicity.

Limiting Use-of-Force Liability

Liability from the use of force can be limited by knowledge of the law, policies and procedures, training and certification, and record keeping. We can take out liability coverage from our church insurance provider and get advice on reducing risk. We can also cover legal liability with legal representation.

From the Bible

We are to be alert to signs that persons will cause trouble:

*Some people are ready to sue you for any perceived wrong:
And if any man will sue thee at the law ... (Matthew 5:40a).

*Some people will look for a reason to accuse you of a crime:
Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him (Daniel 6:4).

And they watched [Jesus] ... that they might accuse him (Mark 3:2).

*We can be falsely accused:
Neither can they prove the things whereof they now accuse me (Acts 24:13).

*We are to act rightly and legally:
If any be blameless ... not accused of riot or unruly (Titus 1:6).

Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ (1 Peter 3:16).

Know the Laws

Staying within the law is the primary means of limiting legal liability. Use-of-force laws differ from state to state, so it is important to find out what the laws are in your own state. In some states, localities can have regulations of their own, usually stricter than the state's. However in some states, local use-of-force laws may not be stricter than state law.

Use-of-force laws cover citizen's arrest, what degree of force may be used in subduing a suspect, the purchase, carrying, and use of deadly weapons (including which weapons are classified as deadly), and self-defense.

Knowledge of the law should be up-to-date to keep up with any changes as they are made. Here are a few examples of state law changing:

- ◆ Until recently, most Ohioans were unaware that a pocket knife carried in a pocket might be considered by a law enforcement officer to be a concealed weapon. That was clarified by a change in the law, and pocket knives became perfectly legal, even when pocketed.
- ◆ Now Ohio goes a step further with a law passed and signed making Ohio a "constitutional carry" state - no permit needed for a concealed weapon. Felons and persons under restraining orders for domestic violence are still banned from carrying.
- ◆ In September 2017, a change in the Texas law regarding the certification and licensing of safety / security persons in churches went into effect.
- ◆ Regulations on police batons vary widely by jurisdiction, but most are strict since a baton can inflict serious bodily injury, even death. These regulations can be revised.
- ◆ Some self-defense devices once considered non-lethal, or even harmless, have been coming under closer scrutiny and regulation. Pepper spray is one example.
- ◆ Certain unarmed control and self-defense moves are undergoing increasing regulation and restriction. This is especially true for police use, but will likely affect private security and church safety teams.

Self-defense laws usually fall into one of four categories: Duty to Retreat, Castle Doctrine, Stand Your Ground, and Common Law. There are state variations in how these terms are defined and used.

Duty to retreat - Under Duty to Retreat, a threatened person must first seek to avoid, defuse, or escape the situation before using force. States differ on where to draw the line and on what degree of force is justified at that point. These lines are refined by judicial decisions. What's obvious to you may not be so obvious to a judge or jury.

Castle Doctrine - This is based on the principle, "A person's house is his or her castle." You have the right to defend your own home and those who are in it. Depending on the state, this may be extended to include one's place of business or one's vehicle.

Stand Your Ground - The basic view of Stand Your Ground is that you have the right to defend yourself where you are with force up to the level of force by which you are threatened. If you're threatened by fists, you can use yours. If threatened by deadly force, you can use deadly force. The principal reasoning is that this will be a deterrent to potential aggressors.

Common Law - This is basically the common law principle of the right of self-defense. This is not a license to use any force in any situation, but it depends on what is generally considered reasonable: a reasonable belief that your life, health, or property is imminently threatened, and that the means and level of defense used is reasonably proportionate to the threat. Obviously, what is considered reasonable in a state is determined in court cases.

Policies and Procedures

Setting and following policies and procedures is the first line of defense when it comes to use-of-force liability. At the very least, this can protect the church. If there is a lawsuit or potential criminal charges, a church can show the relevant policy, the written procedures for carrying it out, and evidence that the policy was enforced. If one Church Safety Team member does not follow the set procedures while others do, then liability generally narrows down to the individual. If he or she does follow the prescribed procedures, this can be part of their legal defense.

Train and Certify the Team

Liability for use-of-force can be reduced by training *Church Safety Team* members in using force wisely and legally. "Basic Use of Force Laws" is a training module in the [Safety Member Certification](#) program. Church Safety Teams are encouraged to have all their members trained and certified in this program. There are three ways it can be done:

- ◆ Individual Training (self-paced online instruction),
- ◆ Team Training (church-hosted classes), and
- ◆ Online Events (live Zoom classes).[1]

Keep Records

If your church, the Safety Team, or one of its members is sued or facing criminal charges for use of force in an incident in the church, on the church grounds, or at a church-related event, part of the evidence considered will be records. These will include:

- ◆ The church's and the safety ministry's policies and procedures,
- ◆ Training of the Safety Team, including members involved in an incident,
- ◆ Logs showing

- ◆ what led up to the incident,
- ◆ how similar incidents have been handled,
- ◆ what was found during patrols, etc.,
- ◆ Details of the incident in incident reports,
- ◆ Measures the church and the Safety Ministry have taken in response to the incident (for instance, disciplinary action for a volunteer not following set procedures).

Covering Your Liability

There may be times when, no matter what you do or how you do it, there may be a claim for injuries or property damage, a lawsuit, or criminal charges (or other governmental action).

Insurance

These days, insurance is essential. Often claims for property damage or personal injury medical costs are more than what the church or an individual staff member or volunteer can pay. Besides insuring the property for fire and other major damage and injury insurance for staff and volunteers, the church needs liability insurance for claims brought by those who are not staff, volunteers, or the church itself.

By the way, paid staff members are seldom covered by an organization's liability insurance, and volunteers almost never are. Therefore, it is advisable for staff and volunteers to have their own liability insurance for claims resulting from their work. Obviously, not all staff members or volunteers need this coverage, but it is advisable for safety team members, especially if armed.

Legal Representation

When your work requires the use of force, whether armed or unarmed, there is a chance of being sued, criminally charged, or facing an investigation.

An example of potential criminal liability

Jack Wilson was not charged in the shooting death of an assailant who had already proved deadly, but since this was a homicide, state law required an investigation presented to a jury. Whereas in many states, this would have been a coroner's jury, in this case it was a grand jury. Perhaps this was because of the notoriety of the incident. However, he needed a lawyer, if for no other reason than to advise him on what or what not to do or say, but primarily to represent him when needed.

Likewise, if a firearm or other deadly weapon was used, or if a subject was injured in an unarmed control move, or if the subject was detained (construed as a citizen's arrest), there may be legal consequences:

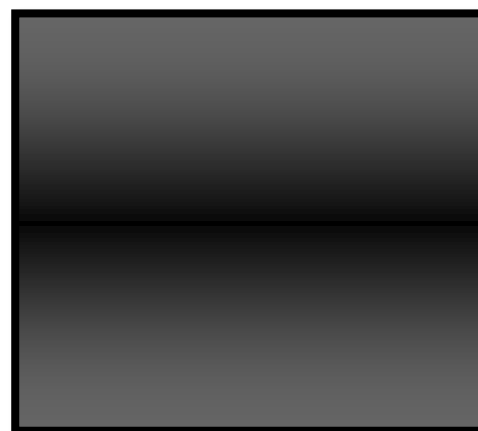
- ◆ If the suspect was killed, there will be an investigation by law enforcement and/or the prosecutor's office, and the suspect's family may sue for wrongful death.
- ◆ If the suspect was wounded, he or she could sue for damages, and there would be a criminal investigation, maybe leading to charges of assault and battery with a deadly weapon.
- ◆ If a firearm was used, but not fired, the user might be charged with assault with a deadly weapon.
- ◆ If a suspect was detained, the person detaining the suspect could be criminally charged with unlawful arrest (or kidnapping) if it did not meet legal standards. Also, the suspect could sue.

Legal Help is Available

A person can do everything right in a use-of-force incident and still be sued or criminally charged. If someone is injured or detained, or if a weapon was used, a lawyer is needed as soon as possible. Most members of Church Safety Teams cannot afford to keep an attorney on a retainer. There is an organization founded for the purpose of providing legal help to persons involved in use-of-force incidents, especially when a weapon is used. Sheepdog Church Security has partnered with this firm. [U.S. LawShield](https://www.uslawshield.com/).^[7] More will be told about them in a future article.



PROTECT GOD'S CHILDREN
AVAILABLE NOW ON AMAZON



MARKED ABUSERS

Dru Sjodin National Sex Offenders Public Website

Introduction

A good shepherd drives wolves away from the flock. Neither does he tolerate dogs that attack sheep. He keeps these predators out of the fold, and will remove any that manage to get in.

The best way to protect the lambs in our flock is to keep predators out, and to remove any that do get in. With animals, it's easy to tell a wolf from a sheep, but how can we identify sexual predators? They don't come dressed as wolves, cougars, and bears. Instead, they pose as shepherds or sheep.



In the News

Chicago, Illinois, sometime before the Pandemic - During a pre-service gathering time, the pastors and staff of a church were watching for new faces. They noticed a man who was continually watching the children. Trained to observe people, this made them suspicious. They greeted him, got his name, and started a conversation. Afterwards they checked him out and discovered that he was a registered sex offender, and his Facebook page had compromising posts about kids.

Concerned for their children, they did not want the visitor in their church, but they did want him to have spiritual help and guidance. Thanks to a program worked out with the city and other ministries, there was a way. They contacted him and referred him to a nearby church for individuals not allowed to be with children.[2]

Memphis, Tennessee, July 2020 - The family of a teen-aged volunteer sued a large, nationally-known church. The teen had been sexually abused by a former staff member. The suit alleged that the church had ignored a number of red flags. By the time the suit was filed, the offender was in prison.[2]

Kasson, Minnesota, February 17, 2019 - A teaching elder in a Kasson church was arrested for child molestation in a motor vehicle. In March he was also charged with sexual abuse of a teen girl from the church. This was when the church found out that he was a registered sex offender in another state in churches of the same group. Church leaders had been downplaying the charges and not informing other congregations.[3]

Madison, Wisconsin, April 19, 2021-April 19, 2022 - More than 200 instances of abuse by clergy have been reported to Wisconsin's Department of Justice in the first year of an investigation begun by the Attorney General. This included 51 survivors reporting abuse to law enforcement for the first time.[4]

Englewood, Florida, July 23, 2019 - A minister of a church was arrested for child pornography. A lead revealed that 70 images were downloaded to his IP address. Following his arrest, authorities found over 500 images on his computer. He had been convicted of sexual abuse in Alabama 13 years earlier and was a registered sex offender. However, he did not register in Englewood when he moved there.[5]

Lehigh Acres, Florida, October 4, 2018 - A volunteer at a Lehigh Acres church was arrested for a pair of sexual assaults. The now-former volunteer, who is a registered sex offender, was charged with touching a child inappropriately and attempting to rape an elderly woman.[6]

Albuquerque, New Mexico, December 2, 2016 - A registered sex offender, who was working in a church office and living on the property, was arrested for distributing child pornography.[7]

Videocast Show Notes

This article, "Marked Abusers" (Dru Sjodin National Sex Offenders Public Website), is covered by Kris Moloney in a podcast and a videocast. In the comments section beneath the videocast screen is a link to the [Show Notes](#) (article summary). These are available for one week after the videocast posting.

By the way, you can subscribe to the [videocasts](#) on the *Sheepdog Church Security Academy* channel (on *YouTube*).[8]

Slipping through the Cracks

In five of the seven news stories above, registered sex offenders slipped through the cracks to become volunteers, staff, and even pastors in churches. In the first story, a church did due diligence to avoid that situation.

From the Bible

We are to be alert to signs that persons will cause trouble:

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause ... offences ... and avoid them (Romans 16:17).

* Note: We are to take note of moral offenders and “avoid them.”

“Ye shall know them by their fruits ...” (Matthew 7:16a).

* Note: Look at people’s records.

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved (John 3:19-20).

* Note: Sexual offenders often try to hide their records.

And [God] delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked (2 Peter 2:7).

* Note: We should be vexed by sexual abuse in our communities.

And [the high priest] set the porters at the gates of the house of the Lord, that none which was unclean in any thing should enter in (2 Chronicles 23:19).

* Note: Morally unclean persons were not to be allowed inside the Temple.

A bishop then must be blameless ... (1 Timothy 3:2. See also 1 Tim. 3:10 and Titus 1:6-7).

* Note: Moral standards apply to leaders.

In another story, 51 victims had not reported their abuse by clergy until Wisconsin's Attorney General launched an investigation. Statistics show that most habitual abusers have several victims before being caught. Sexual abuse victims need the assurance that they will be taken seriously when they report the abuse. When one victim of an abuser comes forward, others follow.

The churches in the stories are not named in the summaries here, but they are in the news articles. These incidents are an embarrassment to five of them and may even hinder their ministry in the community. Consider what Nathan said to King David about his sin:

“Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die” (2 Samuel 12:14).

Closing the Cracks

How do we keep sexual predators from slipping through the cracks? We can find those who have been marked as abusers, who've been registered as sex offenders. There is a national database linked to all publicly-available sex offender registries, covering all 50 states, plus U.S. territories, and tribal lands. A church can access this database to identify registered sex offenders (RSOs) in their area and to see whether a person they are screening is a RSO.

Dru Sjodin National Sex Offenders Public Website

In 2006, President Bush signed the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act (Dru's Law), which expanded the National Sex Offender Public Registry and re-named it the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offenders Public Website (NSOPW).

NSOPW was named after a victim of sexual violence. Dru Katrina Sjodin [show-DEEN] was raised in Pequot Lakes, Minnesota, and was a student at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, just across the state line. There she worked two jobs while studying. She was described as a kind and helpful person who loved life.

On November 22, 2003, Dru left her job at Victoria's Secret in the Columbia Center Mall. According to surveillance camera footage, a man who had been sitting on a bench watching people followed her out to her car. He kidnapped her at knife-point and forced her into his car. Then he took her to a rural area in Minnesota, not far from where he lived. There he raped and killed her, stabbing her several times. Her body was not found until the snow melted in April.[9]

The suspect was arrested December 1. Detectives reviewing surveillance footage identified the man following Dru as a RSO in Minnesota. A knife in his car belonged to a sheath left by hers. Blood in his car had DNA matching that from her personal possessions. According to ABC News, "Because there is no national sex offender registry, the state of North Dakota and its citizens had no way of knowing a 'level 3' - or an offender considered to have a 'high risk' of recidivism - was in their midst." [10]

He was charged with assault and kidnapping. The rape and murder charges came after her body was found. Since the crime crossed state lines, the trial was in federal court.

The Human Time Bomb

Earlier that year, the rapist and murderer had been released from prison in Minnesota after serving a 23-year sentence for rape and assault. Before that offense, he had already been charged with other sexual assaults. When released from prison, he was registered as a Class 3 Sex Offender, meaning he was a likely repeater. He moved in with a relative, about 25 miles from Grand Forks.[11]

The trial and conviction of the suspect and the circumstances leading to the crime prompted the Minnesota Department of Justice to change its management of Class 3 Sex Offenders. They began notifying county prosecutors about prison releases of Class 3 Sex Offenders, beginning a process of having them indefinitely committed to state institutions for treatment (essentially a lifetime prescription for in-house treatment). The object was to keep human time bombs safely away from society.[12]

National Impact

Nationally, the Dru Sjodin murder trial highlighted the danger posed to society by sex offenders. They are registered for a reason: to enable people to protect themselves and their loved ones from these predators. In response, Congress passed a law to make sex offense registrations available nationally so that individuals and institutions could know what convicted sex offenders lived with a selected radius.[13]

For schools and churches, this is a tool to protect children and other vulnerable persons by knowing who the wolves are and guarding against them. This is why Dru's Law was passed and the national registration database was named after her. Churches now can search for specific persons on NSOPW. They can also see which RSOs are in their area and what offenses they have committed. It's a shame that five of the churches in the news stories did not do this.

Training Note

"[Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults in the Church](#)" is an article in the [Church Security Guide](#) - that can be used to preview the training module "Protecting Children from Abuse v4" in the [Safety Team Certification](#) program. After finishing the course, this article can be read to review the subject. It may not have all the details of the training course, but it can refresh the main points. All Church Safety Team members are urged to be trained and certified as Safety Members.[1]

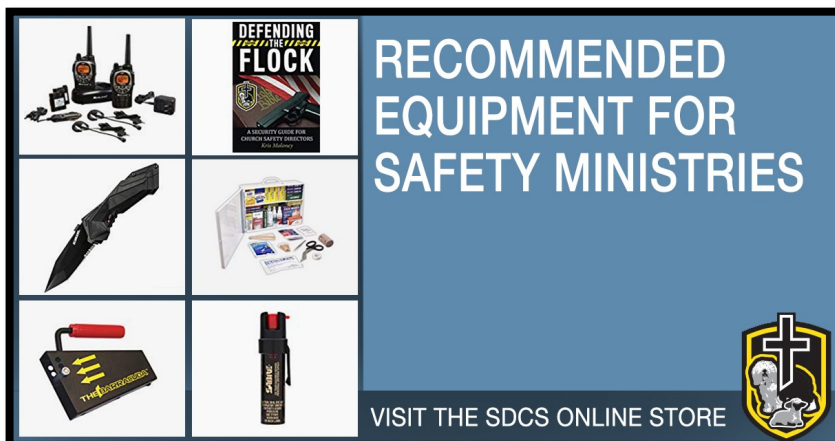
Conclusion

To keep wolves out of the fold, we need to know who the wolves are. Many sexual predators can be identified through the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offenders Public Website (NSOPW).

There Is More

This is the fourth of five articles this month. The others are "The Church in Sacramento Shooting, 2022" (Lesson Learned), "I Spy" (Spot an Assailant), "Responder's Risk" (Use-of-Force Liabilities), and "They Have You Covered" (U.S. LawShield).

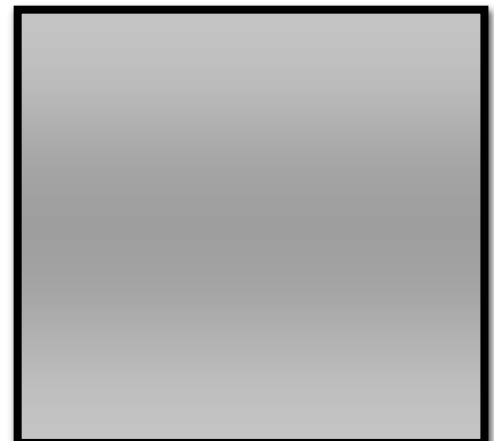
[Article References](#)



RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT FOR SAFETY MINISTRIES

VISIT THE SDCS ONLINE STORE

The advertisement features a grid of six images: two walkie-talkies, a book titled 'DEFENDING THE FLOCK: A SECURITY GUIDE FOR CHURCH SAFETY DIRECTORS', a folding knife, a first aid kit, a flashlight, and a small electronic device. A logo with a cross and a shield is in the bottom right corner.



THEY HAVE YOU COVERED

U.S. LawShield

Introduction

There may be a time when you need a lawyer.

Scenario 1: You are doing what you have to do. Someone gets in the way and is accidentally injured. A third person says to you, "I hope you have a lawyer."

Scenario 2: You're in the foyer during the Sunday morning service. A frequent visitor comes in visibly upset. He goes to another person, talks sharply to him, pulls out a knife and threatens him. You pull out your concealed gun and tell the visitor to drop the knife. When he does, you have him sit down and stay there. Meanwhile, someone has called 911, and police are on the way. Someone else tells you, "You'd better have an attorney.";

Whether it's an accident with injury or you have to use force and/or make a citizen's arrest, you may face civil or criminal charges. In that kind of a situation, you need an attorney. Use of force with a weapon will involve law enforcement almost immediately. When you need a lawyer will be - as the saying goes - "now if not sooner.";

In the News

Battle Creek, Michigan, January 26, 2022 - The Calhoun County Prosecutor decided to not charge a private security guard with second degree murder. On November 24, the guard was removing unruly patrons from a nightclub/bar after a fight started. Some of them attacked the guard. One of them held him on the floor, beating him after kicking him in the head. The guard, fearing for his life and suffering a concussion, pulled out and fired his conceal-carry weapon. The prosecutor cited Michigan's Stand Your Ground law in counting this justifiable homicide.[2];

* This was not in a church, but it illustrates the legal consequences for use-of-force, especially with a weapon.;

Chesapeake, Virginia, February 16, 2017 - A 60-year-old Chinese immigrant (who spoke little English) was playing Pokemon Go. He was shot and killed by a security guard in the parking lot of a community center on January 26. The guard fired several rounds into the man's van when he tried to leave.;

According to the security contract, the guard should have been unarmed. This guard also had a history of aggression. Thousands of people from the community, the state, and the nation signed petitions demanding that the guard be charged. On February 16, he was charged with murder and was convicted and sentenced. The victim's family is suing him and the security agency.[3][4];

* Note: Sometimes the legal consequences are justified.;

Fort Worth, Texas, September 28, 2020 - A Tarrant County grand jury decided to not indict Jack Wilson, the head of a church security team who shot and killed an active shooter who had already fatally shot two church members. They said the shooting was fully justified as defense of others. Wilson is a member of U.S. LawShield. An attorney arrived at the church while local, state, and federal law enforcement officers were still there.[5][6];

Videocast and Show Notes

In a [podcast](#) and a [videocast](#) covering this article, Kris applies his experience and perspectives to the subject of legal representation for use-of-force. You can subscribe to videocasts on the Sheepdog Church Security Academy channel on YouTube.;

Beneath the video screen in the Comments section is a link to the [Show Notes](#), essentially a one-page summary of this article. It will be available for one week.[7];

Legal Defense for Self Defense

In each of the news stories above, someone needed a lawyer. There are really many more stories like these. In a use-of-deadly-force situation, you need a lawyer as soon as possible, but is it possible?

For one thing, lawyers are not cheap. For another, unless you have an attorney on retainer, you have to look for one when you need one immediately.;

"You may call your attorney," the desk officer says.;

"What attorney?" you reply.;

"Here's a list," or, "Here are the Yellow Pages," is his reply.

Now, how many lawyers do you have to call before one says, "I'm coming." What if the first one is a divorce attorney, the next specializes in corporate law, the third in medical malpractice, and so on?

If you have an attorney on a retainer, all you have to do is call and hear, "Hello! How can I help you?" However, most members of church safety teams cannot afford to keep a lawyer on retainer - at least not by themselves. The good news is that many safety team members, along with other firearms users, can do so collectively.;

From the Bible

When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, "Woman, where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee?" (John 8:10)

** Note: The woman brought before Jesus did not have an attorney. Evidently, even though she was accused of a capital offense, she did not have a trial. Today, an attorney would insist on a fair trial.*

[Festus told Agrippa,] "To whom I answered, 'It is not the manner of the Romans to deliver any man to die, before that he which is accused have the accusers face to face, and have license to answer for himself concerning the crime laid against him'" (Acts 25:16).

** Note: Due process was a feature of Roman law, at least for citizens.*

Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? ... Who is he that condemneth? (Romans 8:33a, 34a).

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous (1 John 2:1).

** Paul and John say that Jesus is our advocate (attorney) before God's throne.*

Legal Safety in Numbers

Those of us familiar with rural areas know about cooperatives (coöps). Farmers who own their own farms band together in coöps to market their products. In fact, some of the brands we see in grocery stores, such as Diamond Nuts, and Ocean Spray, belong to coöps. Many rural electric companies are coöps - the customers are shareholders. In urban areas there are craft and art coöps. So how about a law cooperative?;

The closest thing to a law coöp was started in 2009. Several Texas attorneys saw that people who used firearms in defending themselves and others needed legal help. Even when justifiable homicide by reason of self-defense is obvious, the duty of law enforcement and public prosecutors is to investigate each deadly-force incident. No matter how innocent you are in such a case, you still need a lawyer to counsel you, guide you, and represent you.;

These attorneys decided to band together to represent people facing legal challenges for defending themselves, especially with guns. Their Second Amendment rights needed protection. They formed an organization and named it Texas LawShield. Gun owners could subscribe to membership. A member could get legal advice from a lawyer. If a firearm or other deadly weapon was used, an attorney would respond within minutes of a call.;

After successful representation in cases, word got around about this group of Texas lawyers. People outside Texas began to ask for attorneys in their states. Texas LawShield began to expand to neighboring states. Finally, they went nationwide, changing the name to U.S. LawShield.; **

U.S. LawShield at Work

U.S. LawShield describes itself and its affiliates as offering "prepaid legal service products." They say:

Having the best concealed carry insurance* means you have a lawyer on the phone before the police arrive.;

*Not available in all states;

Let's see how this worked in December 2019. When Jack Wilson needed a Lawyer, U.S. LawShield was there.

The Incident

On December 29, 2019, during the Sunday morning service at West Freeway Church of Christ in White Settlement, TX, a man wearing a wig and a fake mustache stood up while communion was being served. He approached a server, pulled a sawed-off shotgun from his long coat, and shot him. A church security team member walked toward the shooter while pulling out his handgun, but the gunman shot him before he could aim.;

While congregants panicked, some running, some ducking their heads down, some diving under pews, Jack Wilson, head of the security team, lifted his handgun, ready for a clear shot. Six seconds after the shotgun was pulled out, Jack fired once, hitting the assailant in the head. All of this was captured by the livestream cameras.[8];

The Response

City, county, and federal law enforcement officers arrived quickly. The church and the neighborhood were locked down and security perimeters were set up. They took Wilson's firearm and the assailant's shotgun.;

Jack Wilson is a member of U.S. LawShield. As soon as possible, he called them. Within minutes Atty. Katherine Reed called. Wilson told her everything that happened.;

Reed came to the church as soon as she could. At the security perimeter, she told officers that she was an attorney, and they escorted her in. One thing she was sure of: with so many agencies involved, the investigation would take time. Also, state law mandated a grand jury investigation, stretching the time into several months.;

A day short of nine months later, the grand jury concluded that the homicide was justified and there would be no indictment. Through this period, Reed advised and represented Wilson.[6];

How to Be Covered

U.S. LawShield is not a regular law firm, but a connector to legal services for members only. It has affiliate organizations in 46 states and D.C., but not in Alaska, Maine, New York, and Rhode Island. Each affiliate firm conforms to the laws of its state.;

You can join U.S. LawShield as a member of Sheepdog Church Security.[9] If you need to know how your state's laws apply to carrying a deadly weapon, call for consultation, and a lawyer from your state will answer within 72 hours. If it is an emergency when a firearm has been used, an attorney will respond within minutes through U.S. LawShield's 365 program.;

Training Notes

Training through the Safety Member Certification program is recommended for all church safety teams.. Additional training is available through the Worship Security Association.;

Safety Member Certification

All Church Safety Teams are urged to have their members trained and certified through Sheepdog Church Security's [Safety Member Certification](#) program. Two of the nine training modules in this program are "Basic Use of Force Laws v4" and "Active Shooter Response v4." Training is available through church-hosted in-person classes for teams and online self-paced individual training. Sheepdog Church Security will be starting an accelerated Online Events format with live Zoom classes. This enables more members to be trained and certified through this format.[1];

An Additional Resource

Not only Safety Team members, but the church itself can face lawsuits and criminal charges. Worship Security Association has an 8-part series, [Church Litigation Attorney at Law](#). In this series, WSA founder Simon Osamoh converses with a non-profit organizations attorney, Ginny Cronin.[10];

Conclusion

If a firearm is used in an incident at church, you can get legal help through U.S. LawShield.

There Is More

This is the fifth article for May. The other four are "The Church in Sacramento Shooting, 2022" (Lesson Learned), "I Spy" (Spot an Assailant), "Responder's Risk" (Use-of-Force Liabilities), and "Marked Abusers" (Dru Sjodin National Sex Offenders Public Website).

Article References



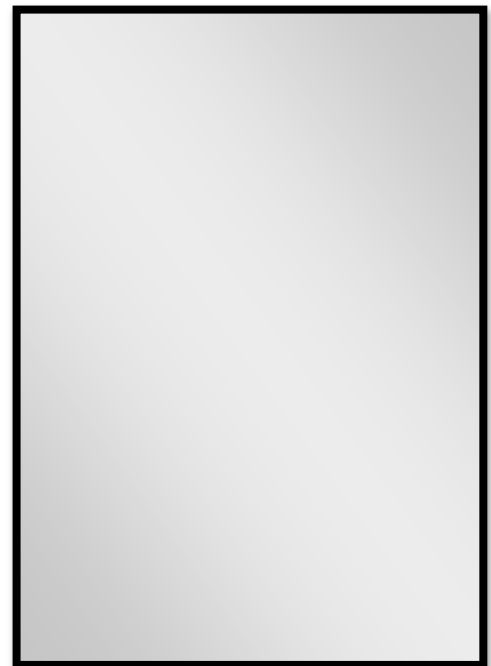
WE PROTECT CHURCH
The top rated security training and equipment program for safeguarding local churches.

SDCCS

THEY PROTECT YOU
The first concealed weapon legal defense program to truly provide Legal Defense for Self-Defense

U.S. & Texas LawShield®
LEGAL DEFENSE - FOR - SELF DEFENSE

The advertisement features a yellow background with a person in a black jacket with "SECURITY" on the back. The bottom half has a blue background with a person in a blue shirt holding a handgun. Logos for U.S. LawShield and U.S. & Texas LawShield are present.



CHURCH SECURITY ROLL CALL

WEEKLY TIPS AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR CHURCH SECURITY TEAMS
HOSTED BY KRIS MOLONEY



2022 Church of Sacramento Shooting

[LISTEN ON SOUNDCLOUD](#)

[WATCH ON YOUTUBE](#)



Spot an Assailant

[LISTEN ON SOUNDCLOUD](#)

[WATCH ON YOUTUBE](#)



Responder's Risk

[LISTEN ON SOUNDCLOUD](#)

[WATCH ON YOUTUBE](#)



Marked Abusers

[LISTEN ON SOUNDCLOUD](#)

[WATCH ON YOUTUBE](#)



SHEEPDOG'S MONTHLY GUEST ARTICLE

F.O.I.L. And Your House (And House Of Worship)

BY: TERRY BERRINGER

Who remembers algebra?

Yes, It has been a few (Dozens in some cases) years since we sat through those very intense classes trying to find “Y”. I never could figure out why once we found him, they didn’t lock him up somewhere!

But if you remember the concept of how to solve those tricky equations, we were taught to use the F.O.I.L. algorithm to work out the process to get the answer.

So what is the F.O.I.L. method and how can we use it to secure our houses and our houses of worship?

To solve a complex problem, use the FOIL method to clarify the process.

F.O.I.L. stands for...First, Outside, Inside, Last.

That same acronym for solving algebraic equations can be used to protect your house (or your house of worship).

F – First

First is used to understand the First Impression, “Do I even want to try to get into this house?” Is what you want your bad guy to be saying. If your house looks like a challenge, they will move on to one that doesn’t look like it will present such a challenge.

A dim lit house with unkept bushes and mail piled up with the garage door left open just screams to be checked out by any dishonest vermin traveling down your street.

Make your house, or your house of worship look inviting, just not inviting to the wrong people.

O – Outside

What is the outside looking like? A well kept lawn and landscape will make the bad guy think twice about treading upon the property of a owner that cares about how his place looks. If they think that much of the lawn and outside, imagine how much they care about what's inside and what they will do to protect it.

Keep the area well lit to take away that element of surprise.

A nice big alarm sign or a beware of dog sign works wonders as well to deter people with ill intent from even thinking about entering private property.

I – Inside

Inside is regarding what inside can they see from the outside.

Can I even see Inside? Is there a door open? Are the Drapes open? Can I see into unoccupied rooms?

Are there valuables in plain sight? Is it worth risking going inside uninvited?

These are all issues that can be checked by just walking out your door and viewing your house / facility and seeing where there are issues that need to be addressed.

L – Law Enforcement

Involve Law Enforcement in the equation

If you are not involving your Local Law Enforcement in your safety of your house of worship, Well, Then, Your missing a huge opportunity to enhance any efforts you have done to establish a safe place to gather and worship. It is highly recommended that you become friends with the local authorities. Have the local emergency providers tour your facilities and have them become familiar with your property for when, NOT IF, they will be responding to your church or organization. If you are considering this for your private home, then there is even a better opportunity to become a vital part of the neighborhood and introducing yourself to the local law enforcement officers. You can talk to them about what areas are safest as well as having them visit your home to do an inspection to see if there are any areas that you may need to improve with in your home security. They can also be alerted when you're going to be away for them to stop by to monitor your residence while you are out.

So as we look at ways to protect our houses and our houses of worship, Let's consider using F.O.I.L method to help us design and implement security in both your home and house of worship.

Thanks for looking at the idea from a different viewpoint. If you would like to discuss these ideas more contact me at the info below and I would be happy to talk more about keeping you and your church safe.



Terry Berringer
terry@churchemergency.com
412-527-3673

Terry Berringer is the owner/operator of Church Emergency Consulting. He was the founder, developer, trainer and director of the security, parking and medical teams of one of the largest congregations in south-west Pennsylvania for over 20 years.

To learn more, click on the image below:



**Church
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ONSITE INSTRUCTORS



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Location: Cabot, Arkansas 72023

Email: shepherdingsheepdogs@gmail.com

Phone: [\(971\) 409-2425](tel:(971)409-2425)



MICHAEL MERCER

Location: South Windham, Maine 04082

Website: <https://michaelmercerconsulting.com>

Email: michael@michaelmercerconsulting.com

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BRIAN STOLT

Location: Belle Plaine, Minnesota 56011

Website: <https://stolttacticaldefense.com/>

Email: brian@stolttacticaldefense.com

Phone: [\(952\) 292-8758](tel:(952)292-8758)



MICHAEL & DESERÉE KENNEY

Location: Upper Deerfield Twp. New Jersey 08302

Website: <https://www.kenneyprotectiveagency.com/>

Email: info@KenneyProtectiveAgency.com

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JEFFREY TOEPPE

Location: Racine, Wisconsin 53402

Website: <https://www.personal-defense-training.com/>

Email: jeff@personal-defense-training.com

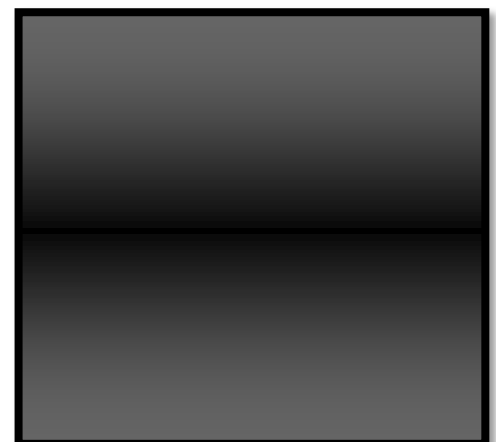
Phone: [262-994-0242](tel:262-994-0242)



SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

**UNFORTUANTLY THERE ARE NO SHEEPDOG SEMINARS
OR OTHER CHURCH SECURITY SEMINARS
SCHEDULED AS OF JUNE 7TH.**

**If you know of any other Church Safety Seminars or
Conferences and would like to see them featured on the
Church Guardian, Please Contact us via Email at
KRIS@SHEEPDOGCHURCHSECURITY.NET**



SHEEPDOG CORNER

Hi Sheepdog,

Below is the schedule for the 2022-2023 season. You will notice two primary changes. I will be facilitating the Online Training Events every week (skipping holidays) to give students more opportunities to train. This Summer, we will be adding a new module/course on Mass Trauma Emergencies. Feel Free to Contact Me with any questions, comments, or concerns. Seriously, Call Me: 612-470-7364

Your Loyal Companion in Christ,

Kris P. Moloney

Sep 11 | Nov 13 | Jan 29 | Mar 26

Safety Team Fundamentals

Sep 18 | Nov 20 | Feb 5 | Apr 2

Active Shooter

Sep 25 | Dec 4 | Feb 12 | Apr 16

Deescalating Disruptive Persons

Oct 2 | Dec 11 | Feb 19 | Apr 23

Protecting Children from Abuse

Oct 9 | Dec 18 | Feb 26 | Apr 30

Basic Use of Force Laws

Oct 16 | Jan 8 | Mar 5 | May 7

Arson and Fire Safety

Oct 23 | Jan 15 | Mar 12 | May 21

Storms and Disasters

Nov 6 | Jan 22 | Mar 19 | Jun 4

Mass Trauma Emergencies



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