



## Community Resource Guide for Pastors

To better assist pastors and ministry leaders in serving children and families in your church, we have created the Community Resource Guide listed below, which includes resources and tips for locating services in your communities. It also contains a list of lead agencies in Florida. These lead agencies oversee the operations between various entities within a particular field across the state, and they also refer many children to us for help. Our hope is to provide a lead agency contact in the event that you need to locate outside resources for a child or family in need. The compiled information is an attempt to help address particular needs that might exist within your church. We realize that there are some needs for which you might not need the enclosed resources, and you are under no obligation to utilize what we have provided. We do hope that this resource will enhance the already fruitful work you are doing to meet the needs of those in your church and community.

**NOTE:** The resource list contained herein does not represent an exhaustive list of all of the resources and services in each county. Other resources may be available that are not on this list. The resources/services/agencies contained within this list have not been background checked by the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, nor does inclusion on this list imply endorsement by the Florida United Methodist Children's Home.

### **Abuse and Neglect of Children and Vulnerable Adults**

For any issues regarding child abuse and neglect, don't forget that you (as well as your staff and volunteers) are a mandated reporter, and that this mandate holds whether or not you are able to meet with people in-person. Florida Statute 39.201, entitled "Mandatory Reports" states that: "Any person who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare, as defined in this chapter...shall report such knowledge or suspicion to the department."

Mandated reporting requirements also exist for vulnerable adults. Florida Statute 415.1034 states that: "Any person...who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a vulnerable adult has been or is being abused, neglected, or exploited must immediately report such knowledge or suspicion to the central abuse hotline."

### **The Florida Abuse Hotline: 1.800.96ABUSE (1.800.962.2873)**

Click [here](#) for some important resources from the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) - including definitions and tips.

### **Domestic Abuse (often related to child abuse):**

- Encourage regular check-ins amongst your congregation.
- If you haven't already, consider expanding your modes of engagement from phone and/or

email to text messaging, social media, and other modes of communication.

- Take note of any changes in personal behavior and activity.
- Familiarize yourself with the signs and symptoms of domestic abuse. A short list\* includes:
  1. **Constant worry about making one's partner angry**
  2. **Making excuses for one's partner's behavior**
  3. **Displaying unexplained marks or injuries**
  4. **No longer spending time with friends and family**

\*source: National Domestic Violence Hotline website, accessible [here](#).

- Build this information into your small group/ministry training to teach leaders how to respond to the presence of warning signs.
- If your church has a Stephen Ministry, you might find them a helpful resource in providing valuable follow-up care.
- Contact your local domestic violence shelter to learn how you can help in your pastoral context
  - ◇ The Florida Department of Children and Families' county-by-county list of certified domestic violence shelters in Florida can be accessed [here](#).
  - ◇ The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence has compiled a directory of certified domestic violence shelters in Florida can be accessed [here](#).

### **State & National Abuse Resources:**

Florida Department of Children and Families: [www.myflfamilies.com](http://www.myflfamilies.com)

Prevent Child Abuse America: [www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org)

Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence: [www.fcadv.org](http://www.fcadv.org)

Florida Domestic Violence Hotline: 1.800.500.1119

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1.800.799.7233, [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)

Futures Without Violence: [www.futureswithoutviolence.org](http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org)

### **Other Pastor Resources**

#### ***Crisis support information***

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org), 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- The Trevor Project (crisis intervention and suicide prevention for LGBTQ young people under 25) and Lifeline: [www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org), 866.488.7386
- Veterans Crisis Line: Text 838255 to get help, 1.800.273.8255 and PRESS 1
- Deaf & Hard of Hearing chat: [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/GetHelp/Accessibility](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/GetHelp/Accessibility), TTY 800.799.4889
- En Espanol: 1.888.628.9454
- Creole: 305.358.4357
- Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition: [www.floridasuicideprevention.org/resources](http://www.floridasuicideprevention.org/resources)

### **Outpatient Counseling Services**

For outpatient therapeutic (and related) services for children and families following a traumatic event in Brevard, Flagler, Hillsborough, Manatee, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Sarasota, Seminole, and Volusia Counties:

- Circle of Friends Services Inc. (A ministry of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home): [www.cofsfl.org](http://www.cofsfl.org), 386.259.5413

Christian counseling resource:

- Florida Annual Conference resource page: [www.flumc.org/mental-spiritual-health](http://www.flumc.org/mental-spiritual-health)

We also encourage clients to ensure that the provider is licensed (e.g. LMHC, LMFT, LCSW, etc.) and insured.

- Psychology Today has a list of therapists: [www.psychologytoday.com/us/therapists](http://www.psychologytoday.com/us/therapists)

Often people are unaware of what resources might already be available to them. Suggesting the following might empower them to locate the proper services:

- Inquire about any Employee Assistance Programs through their place of employment, and direct them to take advantage of any such programs.
- Direct them to a list of providers on their insurance company site, if they have insurance.

### **Foster Care**

- Specific Children's Home Foster Care locations:
  - o Volusia/Flagler Counties (located in Enterprise): 386.738.3663
  - o Broward/Palm Beach Counties (located in Southwest Ranches): 954.514.7000
  - o Hillsborough County – Therapeutic (located in Plant City): 813.240.9980

For general Children's Home Foster Care Services information, contact:

Cedric Davis, Director of Foster Care Services, at [cedric.davis@fumch.org](mailto:cedric.davis@fumch.org), 813.240.9980.

- Florida's Foster Information Center: [www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/foster-care/contact.shtml](http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/foster-care/contact.shtml), 833-678-3735

### **Adoption Information**

- Adopt Florida: <http://www.adoptflorida.org/>, 1.800.96.ADOPT
- Florida Association of Heart Galleries: [www.adoptflorida.org/heartgallery.shtml](http://www.adoptflorida.org/heartgallery.shtml)

### **Services for LGBTQ Individuals/Families**

- Center for Disease Control LGBT Youth Resources: [www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/youth-resources.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/youth-resources.htm)
- Sage (for elders): <https://www.sageusa.org/>

### **Substance Use/Abuse**

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), National Helpline: [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov), 1.800.622.HELP (4357)
- Marchman Act (help if someone is at risk of life-threatening substance abuse): [www.marchmanactflorida.com](http://www.marchmanactflorida.com), 1.833.497.3808
- 12-step programs:
  - o Celebrate Recovery: [www.celebraterecovery.com](http://www.celebraterecovery.com)

- Alcoholics Anonymous: [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)
- Narcotics Anonymous: [www.na.org](http://www.na.org)
- Al-Anon, helping relatives and friends of alcoholics: [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org)

### **General Service Information**

- 2-1-1 (health and community services database): [www.my211florida.org](http://www.my211florida.org), dial 2-1-1
- Various services of Florida United Methodist Children’s Home: [www.fumch.org](http://www.fumch.org), 386.668.4774

For general information on services in your area, consider reaching out to your local community service hubs. These are places such as:

- Chamber of Commerce
- County Commissioners’ office
- Boys & Girls Clubs of America: [www.bgca.org/get-involved/find-a-club](http://www.bgca.org/get-involved/find-a-club)
- YMCA: [www.ymca.net/find-your-y](http://www.ymca.net/find-your-y)
- United Way: [www.unitedway.org/find-your-united-way](http://www.unitedway.org/find-your-united-way)
- Parents should consider contacting the child’s guidance counselor at school, as they might have insight into helpful next steps.

## **LEAD AGENCIES ACROSS THE STATE**

### ***NORTHWEST***

Region (Circuit) 1

Counties – Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton

Lead Agency: Families First Network of Lakeview

[www.elakeviewcenter.org/familiesfirstnetwork](http://www.elakeviewcenter.org/familiesfirstnetwork), 850.453.7745

Region (Circuit) 2 & 14

Counties – Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Washington; Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Wakulla

Lead Agency: Big Bend Community Based Care, Inc.

[www.bigbendcbc.org](http://www.bigbendcbc.org), 850.410.1020

### ***NORTHEAST***

Region (Circuit) 3 & 8

Counties – Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor; Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, Union

Lead Agency: Partnership for Strong Families, Inc.

[www.pfsf.org](http://www.pfsf.org), 352.415.6269

Region (Circuit) 4

Counties – Duval & Nassau

Lead Agency: Family Support Services of North Florida Inc.

[www.fssjax.org](http://www.fssjax.org), 904.421.5800

Region (Circuit) 4  
County – Clay  
Lead Agency: Kids First of Florida, Inc.  
[www.kidsfirstofflorida.org](http://www.kidsfirstofflorida.org), 904.278.5644

Region (Circuit) 7  
Counties – Flagler, Putnam, Volusia  
Lead Agency: Community Partnership for Children, Inc.  
[www.communitypartnershipforchildren.org](http://www.communitypartnershipforchildren.org), 386.238.4900

Region (Circuit) 7  
County – St. Johns  
Lead Agency: Family Integrity Program  
[www.sjcfl.us/FIP/index.aspx#.X33Z5GhKiUk](http://www.sjcfl.us/FIP/index.aspx#.X33Z5GhKiUk), 904.209.6089

### **SUNCOAST**

Region (Circuit) 6  
Counties – Pasco & Pinellas  
Lead Agency: Eckerd Connects  
[www.eckerd.org](http://www.eckerd.org), 727.359.3646

Region (Circuit) 12  
Counties – De Soto, Manatee, Sarasota  
Lead Agency: Safe Children Coalition  
[www.sccfl.org](http://www.sccfl.org), 941.371.4799

Region (Circuit) 13  
County - Hillsborough  
Lead Agency: Eckerd Connects  
[www.eckerd.org](http://www.eckerd.org), 831.471.0006

Region (Circuit) 20  
Counties – Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee  
Lead Agency: Children’s Network of Southwest Florida  
[www.childnetswfl.org](http://www.childnetswfl.org), 239.226.1524

### **CENTRAL**

Region (Circuit) 5  
Counties – Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion, Sumter  
Lead Agency: Kids Central, Inc.  
[www.kidscentralinc.org](http://www.kidscentralinc.org), 352.387.3413

Region (Circuit) 9 & 18  
Counties – Orange, Osceola; Seminole  
Lead Agency: Embrace Families  
[www.embracefamilies.org](http://www.embracefamilies.org), 321.441.2060

Region (Circuit) 10  
Counties – Hardee, Highlands, Polk  
Lead Agency: Heartland For Children, Inc.  
[www.heartlandforchildren.org](http://www.heartlandforchildren.org), 863.519.8900 ext. 201

Region (Circuit) 18  
County – Brevard  
Lead Agency: Brevard Family Partnership  
[www.brevardfp.org](http://www.brevardfp.org), 321.752.4650

***SOUTHEAST***

Region (Circuit) 15  
County – Palm Beach  
Lead Agency: ChildNet, Inc.  
[www.childnet.us](http://www.childnet.us), 561.352.2375

Region (Circuit) 17  
County – Broward  
Lead Agency: ChildNet, Inc.  
[www.childnet.us](http://www.childnet.us), 954.414.6000

Region (Circuit) 19  
Counties – Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Saint Lucie  
Lead Agency: Communities Connected for Kids  
[www.ckkids.net](http://www.ckkids.net), 772.873.7800

***SOUTHERN***

Region (Circuit) 11 & 16  
Counties – Miami-Dade; Monroe  
Lead Agency: Citrus Family Care Network  
[www.citrusfcn.com](http://www.citrusfcn.com), 305.424.3100