

FULL ARMOR CHURCH TRAINING

Checklist for Operating a Security Ministry



The following serves as a suggested guideline for the initial creation and operational functions of the security ministry within the local church.

STEP 1 – Designate a Security Board / Pastor’s Council

This board should provide oversight, design, and develop the guidelines from which the security ministry will operate. This board should do the following:

- Complete the initial risk assessment and review the findings
- Identify the active security measures in place and discuss the present vulnerabilities
- Organize a course of action to address the identified needs and develop a budget
- Develop the policies and procedures by which the security ministry will operate
- Select a Security Director to report to the board and directly oversee the ministry
- Schedule meetings to discuss concerns and request updates from the director

STEP 2 – Selecting a Security Director

Although the security director is not required to have prior law enforcement or military training, it is beneficial. The selected candidate should be an active church member with visible spiritual fruit and maturity. In addition, the person appointed as the security director should undergo and satisfactorily pass a background check and be free of liability concerns. The director would be responsible for the following:

- Answering directly to the Pastor and oversight board
- Being aware of the overall vision and goals of the church
- Assist in selecting and recruiting qualified candidates to serve in the security ministry
- Be responsible for holding regular meetings and training classes
- Document and keep training records on file for security team members
- Identify and communicate identified concerns and risks to the Pastor and Board
- Document incidents that occur on church owned properties - incident reports
- Oversee and ensure there is adequate training and preparation on action plans
- Ensure compliance to protocols and evaluate the overall effectiveness
- Provide direction, council, and advice to the Pastor and Board

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STEP 3 – Selecting Security Team Members

With the assistance of the Security director, qualified candidates should be identified and selected. Volunteers wishing to serve in the security ministry should:

- Complete an application with a full disclosure and consent for a background check
- Have no prior felony convictions or disqualifying charges
- Have no diagnosed mental health conditions or prescribed medications
- Be physically capable and willing to assist in the need of crisis
- Be members in good standing with the evidence of spiritual fruit and self control
- Be willing to attend scheduled trainings and adhere to oversight and policies

STEP 4 - Training and Operating a Security Ministry

Once you have established your security director and team members, you should operate the security ministry by incorporating the following:

- Hold scheduled meetings; to include topical training, devotions, and prayer
- Establish and maintain a team roster with contact information for members
- Record and retain copies of members who have licensed concealed carry permits
- Review and ensure compliance to protocols and policies
- Discuss and become familiar with action plans for critical incidents
- Establish communication protocols and equipment familiarization
- Review and rehearse evacuations, lock downs, and disruptive member drills
- Identify areas of coverage and assign specific service time functions and posts
- Establish pre-service protocols and security sweeps
- Establish service time protocols and assignments
- Establish post-service protocols and final sweeps
- Cover areas of high liability
- Practice physical drills on control techniques and de-escalation
- Assign and establish rotational service time to avoid lapse and burn out
- Establish periodic training times that incorporate all serving members and volunteers
- Retain spiritual emphasis and incorporate the role of spiritual intervention
- Develop structured prayer for service times, staff, and protection over the body