

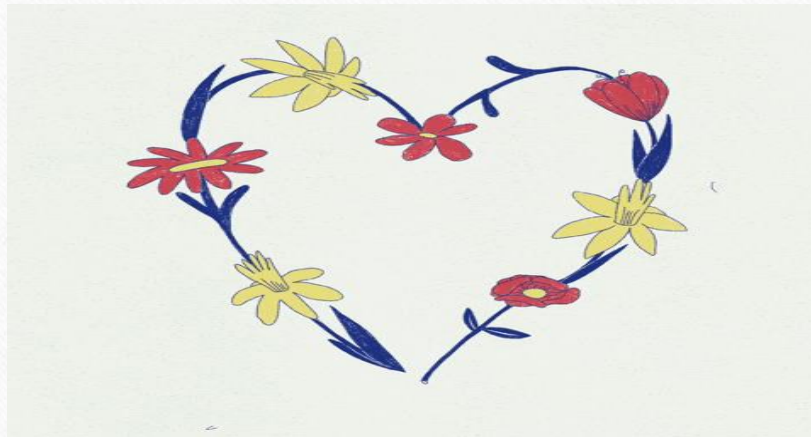
SERVANT'S RETREAT- SEPTEMBER 2023

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT PRESENTATION
FOR ST. MARY & ARCHANGEL MICHAEL COPTIC
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

By Roxanne Ghobrial, Attorney for the
Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States

1 CORINTHIANS 16:14

“Let all that you do be done with love.”



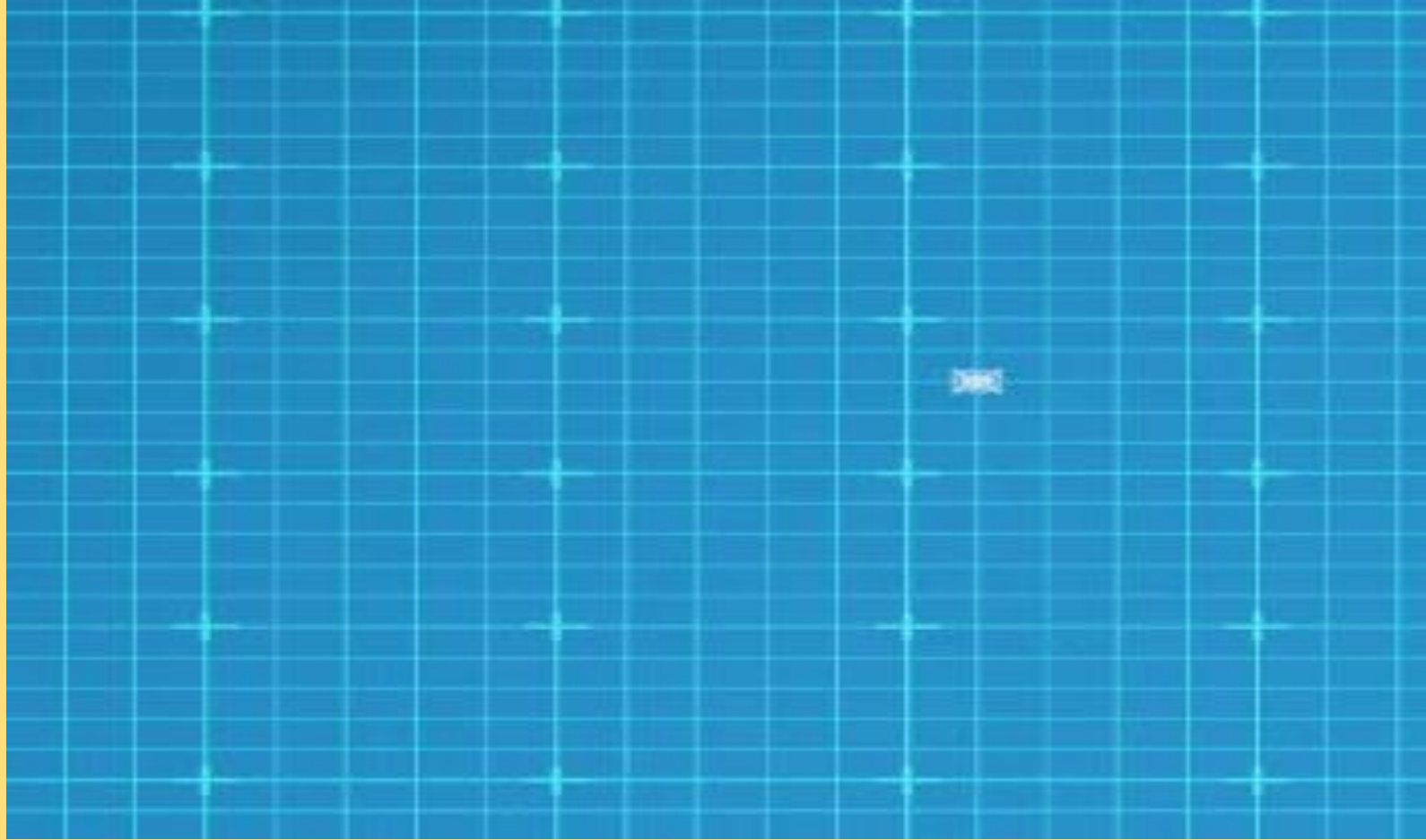
REVIEW OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT POLICIES

- Three Person Rule
- Bathroom Policies
- Giving Rides Policies
- Policies Relating to Interactions Between Coordinators and Servants

HYPOTHETICAL - THREE PERSON RULE

1. You are a male SS teacher and a teenage female in your class asks to speak with you privately.

What are appropriate responses in this situation?



HYPOTHETICAL - THREE PERSON RULE

2. She tells you that things “aren’t right” at home.

How do you respond?

DANGER ZONE

HYPOTHETICAL - THREE PERSON RULE

3. She tells you that she can't stop thinking about you.

What is an appropriate response to this situation?

HYPOTHETICAL - THREE PERSON RULE

4. If one of the students in your class has chronic pain in his or her leg and you are familiar with the diagnosis, would it be appropriate for you to examine the student's leg?

HYPOTHETICAL – BATHROOM POLICY

1. There are mostly five year old students in your SS class and a student asks you to go with him/her inside the restroom to help remove his/her pants.

How should you respond?

Is it ok under any circumstances for a SS teacher to go inside the restroom, during Sunday School, and help a child of the class?

HYPOTHETICAL – BATHROOM POLICY

2. The child comes out and wants you to help with his or her pants after using the restroom.

How do you respond in this situation?

HYPOTHETICAL – BATHROOM POLICY

3. In front of the child's parent, the child has a meltdown and refuses to let anyone but you help button his or her pants. How do you respond?



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HYPOTHETICAL- GIVING RIDES TO STUDENTS TO AND FROM CHURCH

1. A parent of a student in your SS class asks you to give the child a ride to Church.

Is it ok for you to say no to the parent?

HYPOTHETICAL- GIVING RIDES TO STUDENTS TO AND FROM CHURCH

2. You end up dropping a student off at his or her home and you are asked, by the student, to come inside the home.

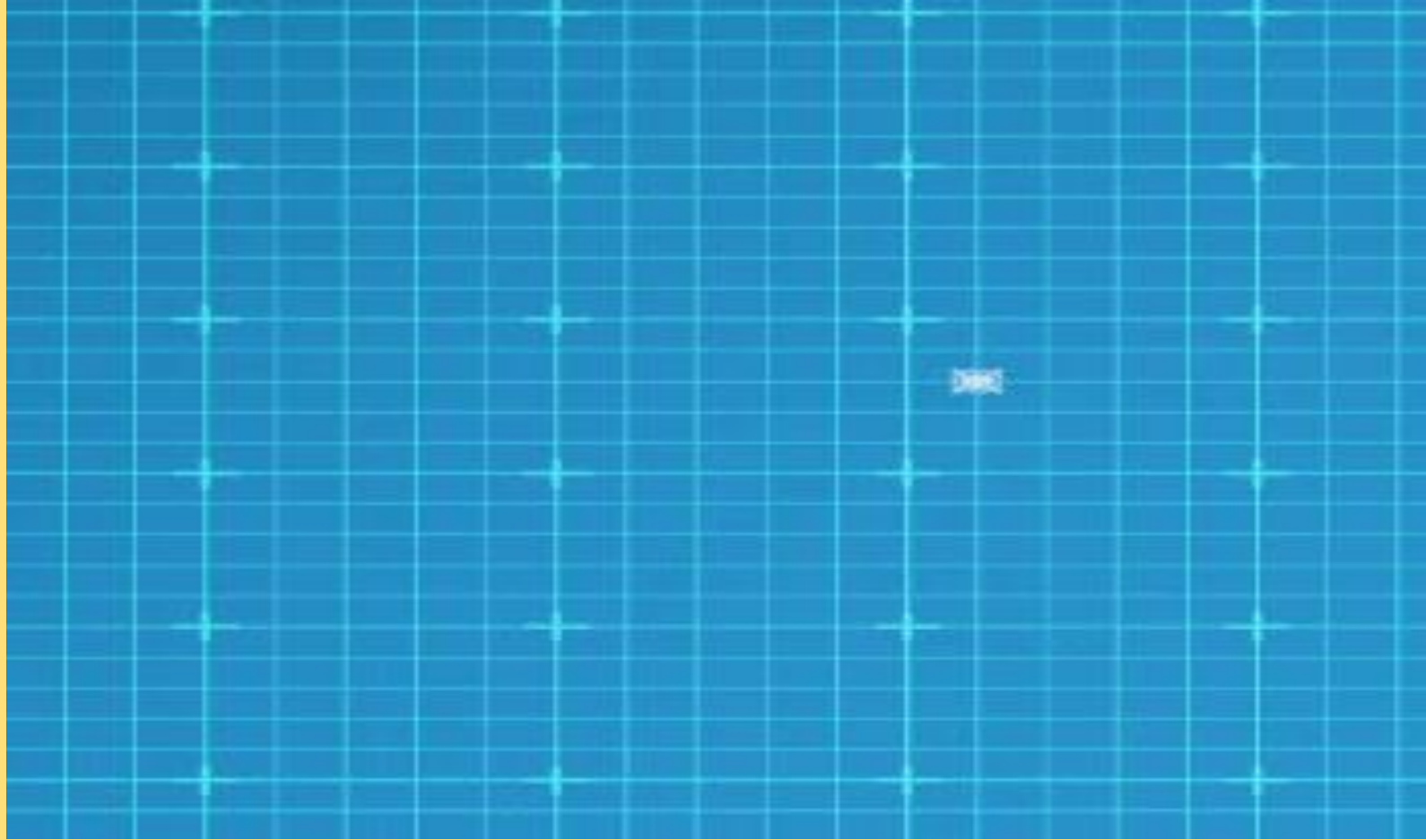
Should you decline?

Should you decline even if a parent is home?

INTERACTIONS BETWEEN COORDINATORS AND SERVANTS



- What is the best way to guide or correct a servant?
- What if you know that servant does not like being corrected?



HYPOTHETICAL- INTERACTIONS BETWEEN COORDINATORS & SERVANTS

1. You, as the coordinator, hear a SS servant teaching a class something that amounts to a heresy in our Church. You immediately respond by correcting the servant privately. The servant, having learned this heresy in a different country, believes that she is right and you are wrong. Not only does the servant complain about you to the Church Priest, but the servant claims that you touched her inappropriately after correcting her.

What is the appropriate way for you as the coordinator to respond to this wrongful accusation?

GENERAL POLICY CONCERNING CONDUCT

- Be aware of signs and report unusual behavior to a coordinator and/or Priest and/or Church Hierarchy.
- Speak to fellow servants and members or the congregation in a safe and open area.
- Seek the guidance of a trusted person such as a Priest if unsure about a situation.
- Please keep in mind that most of us are not trained counselors and if someone is in need of counseling and/or a specific type of trained professional, it is most probably appropriate to encourage that person to speak with a trained professional.

REPORTS OF MISCONDUCT

- Servants should immediately notify the coordinator and/or Church Priest and/or Church Hierarchy after receiving a complaint of misconduct.
- Every allegation of misconduct must be investigated and follow ups must be made. *(Please don't assume others are taking care of it. Please follow up.)*
- Federal and state laws must apply to the investigations including rights given to all parties.

REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS

- If you are aware of a registered sex offender, please do not assume the Church Priest knows. Please immediately inform the Priest at your Church.

MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS

- If you are contacted by any form of media for any matter relating to the Church, please immediately notify your Priest and/or Church Hierarchy.

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