



# “THE MOMENTUM WAY”

## 2025 GUIDELINES FOR PROTECTION FOR ADULTS

Momentum realizes that families and local church youth ministries have varying levels of practices/guidelines/policies. However, for the duration of the conference, we are expecting everyone to be on the same page with the following practices/guidelines/policies called “The Momentum Way.”

### Safety/Liability Practices:

- Adults should work with young people in reasonably open places where others are welcome to enter — not behind closed or locked doors.
- Preference is for male adults to counsel male students and female adults to counsel female students.
- If counseling students after dorm check is necessary, adults should use the open spaces within their own dorm or a dorm room with the door opened.
- Under no circumstances should an adult from another youth group counsel students other than their own local church's students without the knowledge and consent of the youth leader from the other group.
- Any such counseling should only take place prior to the evening session (i.e., not during evening youth group time, prior to dorm check, or after dorm check hours).
- If your evening youth group time is unable to be completed in time to return to the dorm by Check-In Time, have your group return to their respective dorms with youth leaders.
- Students should **NOT** walk back to the dorms without a leader.
- A single adult should **NOT** walk with a single student, regardless of gender.
- Adults are not allowed to be housed in the same dorm room as a student.
- Exceptions are given when a related adult may stay in the same room as their family member, with no other students.
- No adult is to administer medications to a student unless the parent/guardian has given that permission to the youth worker.
- In non-emergency issues, the adults will use the Momentum Youth Conference First Aid Team.

### Off Campus:

- If you'd like to take your students off campus during the week, you do not need to sign out, but you must maintain your 1:12 ratio of adults to students per gender who remain back on campus.
- You may not take students from another church off campus unless you have confirmed with the Lead Contact from their church.
- Students are **NOT** permitted to drive vehicles.
- Students are not permitted to be in a vehicle after dorm check-in, even if a youth leader is driving.

### Expected Conduct with Students:

- Each adult working with young people should:
- Respect the privacy of youth, especially when clothes are changed or showers are taken.
- Never use physical punishment.
- Adults are not to discipline students from another group.
- This includes addressing any Momentum Attire.
- The adult should instead contact the main youth leader of the student, and it is the responsibility of the student's home church youth worker to address the issue.
- Treat all young people with respect and dignity.
- Do not engage in any of the following:
  - Scapegoating, ridiculing, or rejecting a young person.
  - Making any racially provocative comments to a young person, even in fun.
  - Rough, physical, or sexually provocative games.
  - Making sexually suggestive comments about or to a young person, even in fun.
  - Inappropriate or intrusive touching of any form.
  - Sexual relationships with young people, even if they consent.

**Reporting Abuse:**

- If an adult suspects or is informed that there is some form of abuse taking place, that adult must report it to the main youth worker of their church AND to the Momentum Ministry Partners Director of Ministry.

**Leaving Conference Early:**

- If a circumstance arises that a local church desires to send any student or adult home early during the week (health/medical, discipline, family emergency, other), the first step is to contact the appropriate Momentum Staff.
- Under no circumstances should someone leave campus prior to the closing date without advance notice to the Momentum Youth Conference Executive Director of Ministry.

**Visiting Guests:**

- Adults or students visiting Momentum Youth Conference (who are not registered for the entire week) are not permitted to stay overnight in the dorm with any registered Momentum attendee. This includes day guests.
- University and Momentum Youth Conference policies for dorm rooms are not similar to hotel rooms.
- Registered Momentum Youth Conference guests do not pay for the room or for a bed. It is a per person rate. Therefore, an empty bed or “just sleeping on the floor” is not an option for visiting guests.
- In addition, this is a policy for both integrity and liability protection.

**Student Guidelines:**

- The main youth leader of each church is expected to support the Youth Conference Student Guidelines known as “The Momentum Way” AND to review the Student Guidelines with their students in advance of the start of the conference.

**Personal Conference Expectations:**

- Youth workers are expected to be at any mandatory staff and youth worker meetings and read text message updates that are sent throughout the week.

**Minimum Age:**

- Youth workers are required to be 21 (unless the youth pastor/lead contact requests approval from the Momentum Youth Conference Staff).

**Background Checks:**

- All adults agree to have a background check completed by their home church prior to arriving on campus.
- Youth Worker to Student Ratio:
  - For lead contacts: agree to have a ratio of 1:12 youth workers to students and provide adequate adult youth workers for each gender.