



CRISIS EXPOSURE SELF-ASSESSMENT

Is Your Ministry Exposed?

A basic checklist to help churches and ministries see where they may be exposed to a crisis before it happens.

HOW TO USE THIS CHECKLIST

Check every statement on the following pages that is true for your ministry.
The more boxes you check, the more areas of potential exposure you have.
Total your checkmarks and review the exposure key on the final page.

1. Leadership & Governance Structure

☐	The founding pastor or leader still holds sole or final decision-making authority
☐	Two or more board or leadership members are related by blood or marriage
☐	No term limits exist for board members or senior leadership positions
☐	There is no documented succession plan if a senior leader left suddenly
☐	One person holds multiple critical roles (for example, pastor and treasurer)
☐	No independent financial audit or review has been done in the last two years

2. Children & Youth Ministry

☐	The ministry operates a nursery, kids ministry, or youth program
☐	Volunteers or staff work with minors without a completed background check
☐	Classrooms and activities don't follow a two-adult or line-of-sight rule
☐	There is no clear process for reporting suspected abuse or misconduct
☐	The ministry offers off-site trips, camps, or overnight youth events

3. Volunteers & Staff

☐	Volunteers significantly outnumber paid staff
☐	There is no formal screening or onboarding process for volunteers
☐	There is no written employee handbook or code of conduct
☐	No designated person or process handles staff or volunteer complaints
☐	The ministry has seen high staff or volunteer turnover in the past year

4. Facilities & Physical Security

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| ☐ | The building is regularly open or accessible to the public during the week |
| ☐ | There is no security team, greeter team, or written security plan on-site |
| ☐ | There is no visitor check-in system for children's areas |
| ☐ | The property doesn't have working security cameras |
| ☐ | There is no written lockdown or active-threat response plan |
| ☐ | The facility sits in an area with above-average property crime |

5. Transportation

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| ☐ | The ministry owns or operates vans, buses, or other vehicles |
| ☐ | Volunteers drive members, students, or children in personal vehicles |
| ☐ | There is no driver screening, license check, or vehicle inspection process |
| ☐ | Auto and liability insurance coverage hasn't been reviewed in the past year |

6. Financial Controls

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| ☐ | One individual controls finances without independent oversight |
| ☐ | There is no annual budget review or approval process |
| ☐ | Cash offerings are counted or handled by a single person |
| ☐ | There are no written financial policies or procedures |
| ☐ | General liability and property insurance haven't been reviewed recently |

7. Location & Natural Disaster Risk

☐	The ministry sits in a region prone to hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, wildfires, or earthquakes
☐	There is no written emergency or disaster response plan
☐	Financial, membership, and legal records aren't backed up off-site
☐	There is no communication plan for weather closures or emergencies

8. Digital & Social Media

☐	The ministry is active on social media without a posting or moderation policy
☐	No one monitors the ministry's online mentions or reputation
☐	Services are livestreamed without a content review or delay process
☐	There is no policy guiding staff or volunteer conduct on personal social media

9. Legal & Compliance

☐	The ministry has no ongoing relationship with an attorney
☐	There are no written policies for handling harassment or misconduct allegations
☐	The ministry has faced a lawsuit, legal complaint, or formal grievance
☐	There is no plan for responding to media inquiries during a crisis

10. Community & Political Exposure

☐	The ministry is actively engaged in local political or social issues
☐	There is a history of public conflict or criticism from the community
☐	No one is designated to speak on the ministry's behalf during a crisis

YOUR SCORE: ____ out of 46

0-6	Low Exposure	Your ministry shows strong foundational safeguards. Keep reviewing these areas regularly.
7-15	Moderate Exposure	Several gaps exist that could grow into real problems if left unaddressed.
16-25	Elevated Exposure	Your ministry has meaningful vulnerabilities across multiple areas.
26-46	High Exposure	Your ministry is significantly exposed. A crisis in any of these areas could seriously affect your leadership, congregation, and mission.