**Church Policy on Bus and Van Transportation for Children and Teens**

**Policy Purpose**:
The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety and well-being of children and teens during transportation to and from church-related events. The policy outlines guidelines regarding the presence of adult drivers, the pairing of drivers, and the installation of cameras in church-owned buses and vans to ensure accountability and transparency in all transportation activities.

**1. Driver Requirements:**

* All drivers of church-owned buses and vans must complete a thorough background check, including criminal history and driving record, prior to being authorized to drive.
* Drivers must be at least 25 years old and possess a valid driver's license.
* Drivers must participate in church-sponsored child protection training to ensure awareness of safe practices during transportation.

**2. Adult Driver Pairing:**

* It is the church’s policy that no driver shall be alone with children or teens in a bus or van. There must be at least two adult drivers present during each transportation event.
* The recommended pairing for adult drivers is one male and one female. It is strongly encouraged that drivers are not married to one another to avoid any perception of favoritism or potential conflicts of interest.
* In the event of special circumstances (e.g., single-gender group or unique transportation needs), the church leadership must approve alternate arrangements.

**3. Vehicle Safety and Monitoring:**

* All church-owned buses and vans will be equipped with cameras that cannot be disabled by the driver. These cameras will serve as a tool to ensure the safety and security of all passengers during transport.
* Cameras must be positioned to capture clear footage of the vehicle's interior, including the seating area where children and teens will be located.
* Footage from the cameras will include time stamps for verification of the time during which transportation occurred. The church will ensure that this footage is stored securely and can be accessed for review if necessary.
* In addition to the static camera footage, live streaming of the vehicle's interior will be considered for ongoing transparency, allowing authorized church personnel to monitor the ride in real-time.

**4. Vehicle Departure and Arrival Procedures:**

* Prior to departure, the responsible adult drivers must confirm the presence of at least two authorized adult drivers (one male and one female) and ensure that the vehicle’s cameras are functioning properly.
* Upon arrival at the destination, all drivers must ensure that all children and teens are safely off the bus or van before the departure is concluded and the vehicle is left unattended.
* Any incidents or concerns arising during transportation should be immediately reported to the church leadership, and the corresponding camera footage should be reviewed if necessary.

**5. Enforcement and Accountability:**

* This policy will be reviewed annually by the church’s child protection committee to ensure compliance with the latest safety standards and best practices.
* Any violations of this policy, including failure to comply with the adult driver pairing or monitoring procedures, will result in the immediate review of the incident and may result in disciplinary action or suspension from driving for the church.

**Conclusion**:
This policy aims to maintain a safe, accountable, and transparent environment for children and teens during transportation to and from church activities. By implementing these guidelines, we affirm our commitment to the well-being of every child in our care and ensure the highest standards of protection during transportation.

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| **Approved By:** | **Contact for Questions or Concerns:**[Name/Position] |
| [Leadership Name/Position] | [Phone Number] |
| **[Date of Approval]** | [Email Address] |
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| I acknowledge that I have read and comprehended this document. |
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| Staff / Volunteer Printed Name  |
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| Staff/Volunteer Signature  |

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact Sonni Wilson sonni@ppekids.org .

I can help you with every aspect of implementing this and any other policy. I can even customize these policies to better suit your needs.