

# Facing the Risk: Why Reduce the Risk?

By Kenneth A. Hall

Almost every day, we are confronted by another news article in the media about liability claims launched against Christian charitable organizations and their leaders.

Although insurance coverage can provide effective protection for unforeseen losses and accidents which occur on your premises or as a result of your operations, every insurance policy has some limitations and it is important for your organization to reduce the risk of losses which are foreseeable and preventable!

It is becoming absolutely essential for churches and Christian charities to establish risk management practices and procedures in order to avoid unnecessary property loss and legal liability damages against the organization and its leaders.

Risk management can be defined as “those practices, procedures and policies utilized by individuals or organizations to reduce or eliminate the potential damages or liabilities which could be expected in the ordinary course of their activities and operations”. In plain language, risk management is about reducing potential pain... (i.e. injury to persons, damage to property) and anxiety... (i.e. uncertainty for leaders).

Good risk management practices don't detract from Christian ministries; they help your organization and your leadership in promoting and advancing your ministries by:

- ! Preventing loss or damage to your property,
- ! Safeguarding your future insurability and premium levels,
- ! Avoiding interruption to your ministries and operations,
- ! Better protecting the children, young people and adults in your care,
- ! Avoiding the unnecessary placement of volunteers and employees in adverse situations,
- ! Providing a positive testimony to your community by adhering to standards that are equal to, or exceed, society's requirements,

! Demonstrating that your leaders (i.e. board members and employees) have exhibited due diligence and care in accordance with their fiduciary duties and statutory responsibilities on behalf of the organization, and

! Avoiding unnecessary litigation that can drain your organization's time and resources and draw the focus away from ministry.

We recommend that an individual or committee be appointed to identify and review your organization's exposures and to take appropriate action where required in order to eliminate or reduce the risk of potential claims. Robertson Hall Insurance has compiled a loss prevention checklist to assist our clients in identifying and evaluating special risks facing their church or charitable organization and making recommendations in the following areas:

- T Fire Prevention
- T Crime Prevention
- T Bodily Injury Prevention
- T Children's Ministries
- T Counselling Services
- T Employees & Volunteers
- T Property Use Guidelines
- T Directors & Officers

If you are not presently insured through the CCCC Group General Insurance Plan for your property and liability coverage requirements and would like to obtain a comparison quotation proposal at no obligation, we would be pleased to also provide you with a complimentary copy of our **Loss Prevention Checklist for Churches and Christian Charities**.

We look forward to the opportunity of working with you to provide more effective insurance protection for your organization, to prevent loss or damage to your property and to ensure the safety of your employees, members, volunteers, participants and guests.

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