



CHURCH LEADER RESOURCE GUIDE TO FAMILY SERVICES

Family Services assists leaders to help members develop emotional self-reliance and overcome obstacles to making and keeping sacred covenants.

CONSULTATION SERVICES

Church leaders may consult with Family Services staff to better understand the social and emotional needs and challenges of their members and to determine what resources and services are available. Bishops should contact their local Family Services office to refer members for counseling. Leaders may also call the after-hours Family Services contact listed in CDOL or the Church Global Service Center at 1-855-537-4357 to be directed to a Family Services counselor. Family Services can also help Church leaders identify and access other appropriate community resources.

For information on social and emotional issues, visit counselingresources.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

When a bishop or stake president becomes aware of or suspects the possibility of abuse, he should immediately call the Church's abuse help line (1-800-453-3860, ext. 2-1911). In countries that do not have a help line, leaders follow the process outlined in the General Handbook. (See [General Handbook, 38.6.2.1](#) [ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://www.ChurchofJesusChrist.org)). Individual counseling and sexual abuse treatment groups may be available through Family Services.

COUNSELING SERVICES

After consultation and at the request of the Church leader, Family Services may provide short-term professional counseling for individuals, couples, and families.

When long-term, specialized, or comprehensive care is warranted, counselors can recommend alternative treatment options.

MISSIONARY SERVICES

Pre-mission—At the request of a bishop or stake president, pre-mission evaluations are available at no cost to candidates who experience social and emotional issues that may impede mission success. Family Services is also available to consult with Church leaders to strengthen missionary candidates' preparation for service.

In-Field—As approved by the mission president, some missionaries may receive treatment from Family Services counselors or other qualified mental health professionals.

Early Return—Missionaries who return home early may receive up to six counseling sessions at no cost.

ADDRESSING COMPULSIVE OR ADDICTIVE BEHAVIORS

Family Services helps individuals and families address pornography use and other compulsive or addictive behaviors through consultation, counseling, support groups, and treatment groups (where applicable).

Healing through the Savior: Addiction Recovery Program support groups are available for individuals who experience compulsive or addictive behaviors, including

the use of pornography, drugs, or alcohol. Support groups are also available for spouses, family members, and friends of those who struggle with compulsive or addictive behaviors. These meetings focus on change and healing through the Savior Jesus Christ and His Atonement.

Meetings are free and do not require a bishop's referral. To access information about the program or to find a meeting near you, visit addictionrecovery.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

Church leaders who are interested in providing this resource should contact their local Family Services office. These groups are initiated at a stake level.

STRENGTHENING MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Family Services may assist Church leaders in strengthening marriages and families through consultation and counseling services. Additionally, manuals for the Strengthening Marriage and Strengthening the Family courses are available to Church leaders. These courses help families build harmonious and loving family relationships. These courses may be taught at ward and stake levels. Download materials from the Gospel Library or providentliving.ChurchofJesusChrist.org/lds-family-services/strengthening-marriage.

COUNSELING FOR SINGLE EXPECTANT PARENTS

Professional counseling is available to single expectant parents and their families without cost. The counseling includes help regarding unplanned pregnancies and related matters. For more details, visit providentliving.ChurchofJesusChrist.org/lds-family-services/single-and-pregnant.

ADOPTION CONSULTATION AND REFERRALS

Family Services provides consultation and referral services to prospective adoptive parents for legal, home study, and placement services. For more information, visit providentliving.ChurchofJesusChrist.org/lds-family-services/adoption-resources.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE: EMOTIONAL CARE

Family Services can provide specialized services following a disaster or a critical incident (such as suicide) at the request of, and in consultation with, Church leaders. Services may include consultation and assessment, crisis support and

referrals to counseling or community resources. All services are designed to increase emotional resilience and self-reliance.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Family Services

providentliving.ChurchofJesusChrist.org/lds-family-services

Abuse

abuse.ChurchofJesusChrist.org

Addressing Pornography

addressingpornography.ChurchofJesusChrist.org

Mental Health

mentalhealth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org

Same-Sex Attraction

ChurchofJesusChrist.org/topics/gay

Suicide Prevention Resources

ChurchofJesusChrist.org/get-help/suicide

Transgender Resources

ChurchofJesusChrist.org/topics/transgender

For additional topics search Life Help on ChurchofJesusChrist.org

CONTACT INFO

Church Services Contacts

Global Service Center—1-855-537-4357

Abuse Help Line—1-800-453-3860, ext. 2-1911

***All of the Family Services resources listed in this guide are provided via technology and in-person (where available).**