



**Registered Sex Offender Policy**  
**January 13, 2020**

The purpose of this policy is to create boundaries for WBCC to allow registered sex offenders to engage in the gospel ministry while protecting the flock from potential danger.

**The boundaries are as follows:**

1. The Registered Sex Offender (RSO) must not enter the LFMC on Sundays. This is to prevent interaction between our youth and children's ministry and the RSO.
2. The RSO must contact the Community Group Pastor to be placed in a Community Group.
3. Tier 1 RSOs whose offense involved a minor and all tier 2 & 3 RSOs must have a staff member, deacon, elder, or community group shepherd escorting them to and from their car and are present with the RSO at all times within the Worship center on Sundays including the bathroom and are not allowed to serve in any Sunday Morning service opportunity. See the following site for explanation of different Tiers of RSOs.  
<https://www.legalmatch.com/law-library/article/tier-i-offenses.html>
4. All tier 1 RSOs except those whose offense involved a minor would be allowed to serve in the following Sunday morning ministries: Hospitality, A/V Tech team, Parking lot, and administrative tasks. Additionally, these tier 1 RSOs may serve in non Sunday morning ministries with approval from the executive pastor.
5. All RSOs must give their probation officers contact information to the executive pastor.
6. The Executive Pastor is responsible for updating the Church's RSO list, and disseminating such information to all ministry leaders, Deacons, Shepherds, and Elders whenever an RSO is added or removed.
7. An RSO is able to removed from the Church's RSO list when their time on the state registry is complete.
8. If an RSO has a child they may drop off the child with the front desk attendant who will bring them to their class and bring the child back to the front when the class is over.
9. RSOs will not have any physical contact with a child at Wells Branch Community Church, including, without limitation, sitting next to a child other than the RSO's, holding a child on the lap, or being hugged or kissed by a child at Wells Branch Community Church. If a child other than the RSO's approaches him/her to talk, the RSO will politely acknowledge the child and promptly leave the area.
10. If the victim of the RSO is not in your immediate family then the RSO must attend a different service than their victim.
11. All RSOs must fill out the attached form below and email to the Executive Pastor to be involved in the life of the church.

WBCC attenders who would like a list of current RSOs, can email [elders@wellsbranchchurch.com](mailto:elders@wellsbranchchurch.com).

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WBCC Elder Board



# Wells Branch COMMUNITY CHURCH

I understand the above conditions. I submit to these conditions and wish to attend Wells Branch Community Church. I submit to my shepherding elder at Wells Branch Community Church. I accept that if I break any of the above conditions, I will no longer be allowed to be present at any Wells Branch Community Church location or activity.

Printed Name of Offender:

Phone/Email:

Signature of Offender: Date:

Church Location Attending:

Printed Name of Wells Branch Community Church Shepherding elder:

Signature of Wells Branch Community Church Shepherding elder: Date:

### File Information

Name of Registered Offender: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Shepherding elder: \_\_\_\_\_

List of Approved Shepherding Individuals:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



**Checklist of Document to Include:**

- o \_\_\_ **Signed Attendance Agreement**
  
- o \_\_\_ **Contact information for Parole Officer (or functional equivalent):**
  - Name: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_
  - E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Document indicating the awareness of and permission for this individual attending Wells Branch Community Church
  
- o \_\_\_ **Signed a Release of Information to Speak with Their Sex Offender Therapist**
  - Name: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_
  - E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



## Pastoral Interview

The questions below are meant to provide guidance to campus-based pastoral staff who have the initial conversation with individuals under RSO status. It is meant to help pastoral staff know key questions to ask and what to listen for during this interview. This list of questions does not need to be followed sequentially although there is some order to this layout.

It is important to have read their listing on the RSO website prior to this interview.

### Questions to Ask:

1. Are you willing to discuss what resulted in you being under RSO status?
  - If yes, express appreciation for their willingness to have talk about a difficult subject.
  - If no, affirm their willingness to know their limits, but make clear that we ask that they not attend any Wells Branch Community Church events or services until they are affirm and submit to this policy, which includes this interview.
  - The goal of this question is to demonstrate that we recognize this is hard for them.
2. What was the nature of the offenses that led to your RSO status? (Recommended [blog article](#))
  - When did the offenses begin?
  - How long before you were caught?
  - How did things come to light?
  - What was the legal conclusion?
  - Listen for anger towards the victim(s) or those who supported the victim during the legal process.
3. What have your current legal consequences been?
  - Charges (both those convicted and those dismissed)
  - Probation status (when does it conclude)
  - Other restrictions (e.g., restraining orders)
4. Are you currently engaged in counseling? What type of peer support or accountability do you have?
  - If yes to counseling, who are you seeing and what is their training?
  - You are listening for how proactively they are engaged in recovery.
5. What impact has your actions and legal consequence had on close relationships?
  - Marriage / Children, Parents, Friends, Work
6. Do you know of any of your victims, family of victims, or friends of victims who attend our church?
  - We want to be sure that we ensuring the care and protect against re-traumatization of any current church members who have been harmed by this person's actions.



7. Have you been attending another church since your actions came to light?
  - If yes, why are you transitioning from that church and can we have permission to speak with them?
  - If not, what sparks your interest in attending Wells Branch Community Church at this time?
8. Are you willing to agree to the parameters of this attendance agreement?
  - Do not rush them to answer yes or no. But hear their initial impression and reasoning.

**Things to Observe:**

- Do they become emotionally overwhelmed as they tell their story?
  - o Assessment: Is this person going to be able to withstand the process of joining a small group which will entail the members of the group knowing his/her RSO status?
- Can they talk about their actions without minimizing, blame-shifting, or making excuses?
  - o Perspective: If their victim or a victim's family/friends heard their presentation of events, would they feel there was proper ownership of his/her actions?
  - o Objective Measuring Point: Reading the RSO listing and news articles related to this person's offense can give an initial baseline about the completeness of disclosure to questions
- When they speak of their offenses what is their tone and disposition?
  - o Possibilities: stoic, anger, shame, defensive, remorse
- Does this person display the level of repentance and emotional maturity / healing to effectively participate in weekend services and/or a small group?