

## Youth Ministry Communications Policy FAQ

Why will youth leaders use technology to communicate with students?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To encourage and edify students through prayer and mentoring</li> <li>• To strengthen, but not replace, our youth group community</li> <li>• To help students grow in Christlikeness and wisdom in their use of technology</li> <li>• To help students grow as disciples who run quickly to the throne of grace, pursue reconciliation, and walk in the light of Christ</li> <li>• To communicate logistics and reminders about youth group events</li> </ul>
What media are permitted?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phone Calls</li> <li>• FaceTime</li> <li>• Texting/voice texts</li> <li>• Email</li> <li>• Zoom meetings</li> <li>• Official CCC websites/<b>public</b> social media pages</li> </ul>
What media are not permitted?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following, friending, or direct messaging students on social media such as, but not limited to, FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram</li> <li>• One-on-one video messaging on media such as, but not limited to Snapchat and Marco Polo</li> <li>• Sending/receiving videos/pictures (selfies) with students</li> </ul>
Which students may leaders communicate with?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students who have a signed a Parents' Consent form on file (ask the Youth Director if not sure)</li> </ul>
When may leaders communicate with students?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M-F: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ After 6:00 am – start of school</li> <li>○ End of school – 9:00 pm</li> </ul> </li> <li>• SS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 6:00 am – 9:00 pm</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

How may leaders use text/email to communicate with students?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Two-deep:</b> with either the student's parent or a non-related youth leader included in communications</li> <li>• Communications with a student of the opposite sex must include either the student's parent or a non-related youth leader of the opposite sex</li> <li>• Inform Youth Director of ongoing conversations</li> </ul>
What are some best practices for text/email?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use digital communicates to promote rather than replace in-person relationships</li> <li>• Create group texts/emails for prayer requests and encouragement with your small group</li> <li>• Follow up with students about prayer requests and life events</li> </ul>
How may leaders use phone calls/FaceTime to communicate with students?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whenever possible, notify parent of phone call <b>beforehand</b>. If not possible, notify afterwards ASAP</li> <li>• FaceTime/video calls <b>must</b> have parent's <b>prior</b> approval</li> <li>• Phone calls with students of the opposite sex <b>must</b> have parent's <b>prior</b> approval</li> <li>• Inform Youth Director of phone calls</li> </ul>
What are some best practices for phone calls?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use phone calls when in-person conversations are not possible</li> <li>• Use phone calls to pray with students</li> <li>• Use phone calls for brief mentoring conversations</li> </ul>
What about Zoom?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use Zoom for Bible studies or mentoring conversations when meeting in person is not possible</li> </ul>
What should I do if a student contacts me directly or if my communications don't meet the criteria of this policy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform Youth Director of any communications that do not meet the policy's criteria (e.g., that are not two-deep) by forwarding or screenshotting</li> <li>• Do not delete the communications in question</li> </ul>
What should I do in the case of suspected abuse?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Immediately</b> contact the Youth Director or Lead Pastor</li> <li>• If this is not possible, call 1 (855) 422-4453</li> <li>• <b>DO NOT</b> take things into your own hands or delay your report</li> </ul>