

PROTECT HIS HOUSE

THE CHURCH LEGAL RISK & ACTION GUIDE

EVERY CHURCH HAS A GOD-GIVEN MISSION, BUT WITHOUT THE RIGHT LEGAL AND RISKS PROTECTIONS, ONE LAWSUIT, AUDIT, OR DISGRUNTLED CONGREGANT COULD DERAIL GOD'S MISSION THROUGH YOUR CHURCH. THIS GUIDE EXPOSES THE HIDDEN RISKS, SHOWS YOU THE SAFEGUARDS YOU NEED, AND EQUIPS YOU WITH TOOLS TO RECOVER IT ALL—BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

DON'T WAIT FOR A CRISIS TO ACT. PROTECT YOUR MINISTRY, YOUR LEADERS, AND THE CHURCH'S FUTURE TODAY.



ELITE AMBITION
— LAW FIRM —

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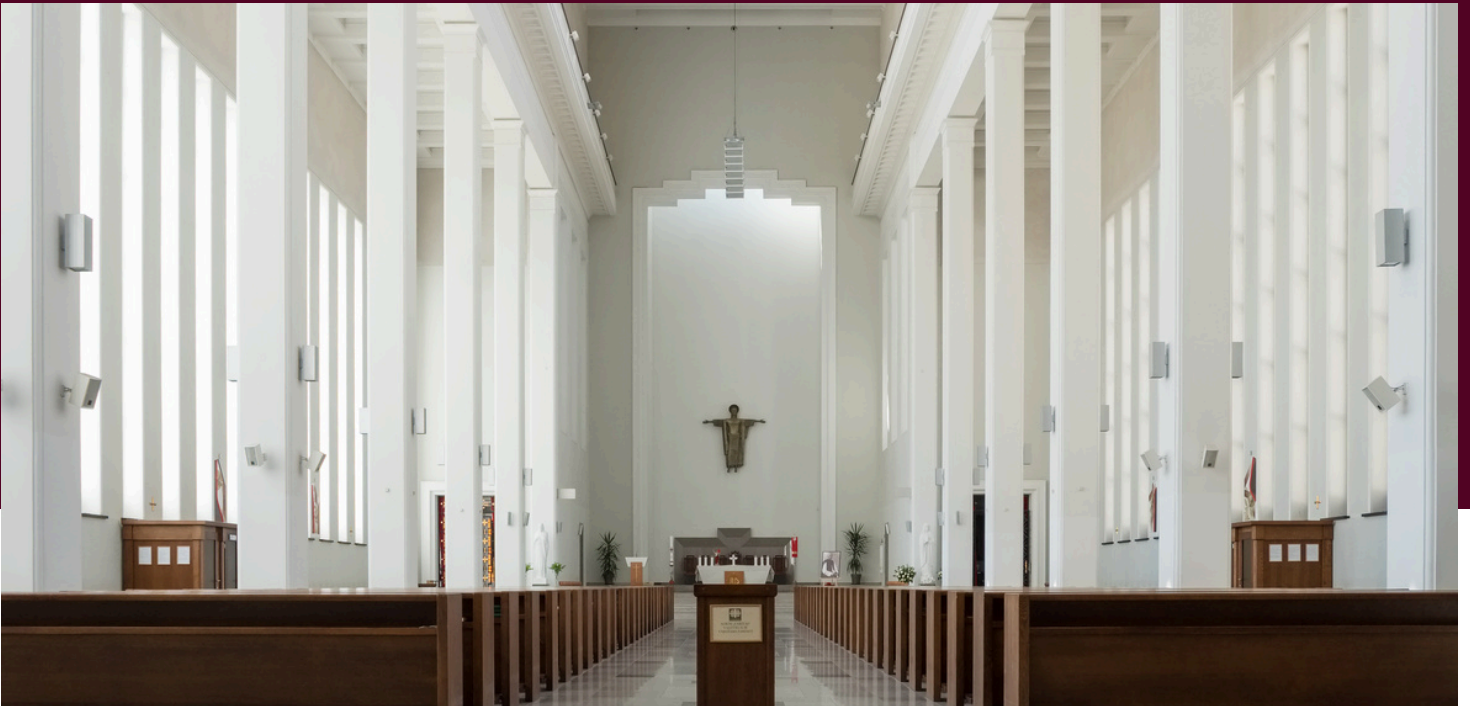
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INTRODUCTION

Churches are powerful community anchors, but they also face unique legal and operational risks. From governance disputes to volunteer liability, from financial integrity to data security, each area carries the potential for devastating consequences if ignored. This guide brings together the top risks, action plans, volunteer safeguards, and essential agreements your church needs to stay covered. The goal: help you operate in decency and order, protect your people, and preserve God's mission for your church.



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TOP 10 LEGAL RISKS FACING CHURCHES

High-impact ministries carry high visibility—and high liability. Here are the top 10 legal risks:

- Governance & Leadership Disputes: Outdated bylaws, unclear succession, board fiduciary failures.
- Employment & Volunteer Issues: Worker misclassification, harassment, volunteer misconduct.
- Child Protection & Abuse Prevention: Weak screening, no safety policies, mishandled allegations.
- Financial Integrity & IRS Compliance: Misuse of funds, housing allowance errors, private inurement.
- Intellectual Property & Branding: Unprotected names/logos, unauthorized use of media, missing music licenses.
- Insurance & Liability Gaps: Abuse exclusions, missing counseling/cyber coverage, no D&O insurance.
- Data Privacy & Technology: Unsecured donor/member data, livestream consent issues, missing privacy policies.
- Political & Social Engagement: Improper endorsements, excessive lobbying, blurred church/PAC activities.
- Real Estate & Facilities: Unreviewed property deals, ownership disputes, zoning/code violations.
- Counseling, Wellness & Community Programs: Unlicensed counseling, confidentiality failures, poor partnership agreements.



Every risk requires BOTH documents and procedures. Without both, the church remains exposed. Key actions include:

- Governance: Update bylaws, adopt board policies, train leaders, maintain resolutions.
- Employment & Volunteers: Use agreements, adopt harassment policy, provide training.
- Child Protection: Require background checks, adopt safety policies, provide prevention training.
- Finance: Adopt financial policies, designate housing allowance annually, audit records.
- Intellectual Property: File trademarks, register copyrights, use media release forms, secure music licenses.
- Insurance: Review annually, add sexual misconduct, counseling, and cyber coverage, secure D&O.
- Data Privacy: Post privacy policies, adopt security procedures, get consent for livestream/media.
- Political Activity: Train leaders on restrictions, adopt political activity policy, separate entities.
- Facilities: Review contracts, use indemnity agreements, conduct annual safety inspections.
- Counseling/Community Programs: Require agreements and waivers, verify licenses, adopt confidentiality policies.





Volunteers are the backbone of your ministry—but without safeguards, they also create liability. Protect your church by:

- Screening & Selection: Background checks, references, applications, waiting periods.
- Written Agreements: Volunteer agreements covering role, conduct, confidentiality, dispute resolution.
- Training & Policies: Mandatory training on protection, harassment, safety, data privacy.
- Supervision: Two-adult rule, board/staff oversight, logs, escalation procedures.
- Insurance: Confirm coverage for volunteers, add accident and cyber liability, review annually.
- Risk & Reputation: Rotate financial volunteers, limit database access, conflict-of-interest policies.



The following agreements provide a foundation for protecting your church, leaders, and ministries:

- Creative Arts: Participation Agreements, Media Releases, Guest Artist Agreements.
- Children & Youth: Parental Consent & Release Forms, Volunteer Agreements, Incident Reports.
- General Ministry: Volunteer Agreements, Confidentiality Agreements, Assumption of Risk, Codes of Conduct.
- Employment: Offer Letters, Employment Agreements, & Contractor Agreements, Handbooks.
- Events: Speaker/Performer Agreements, Vendor Agreements, Facility Rental, Media Releases, Liability Waivers.
- Intellectual Property: Trademark & Copyright Filings, Assignments, Licensing, Content Use Agreements.
- Governance: Board of Directors Agreements, Confidentiality Agreements.

FAITH DEMANDS STEWARDSHIP, SO DO RISKS. ONE OVERLOOKED RISK TODAY CAN BECOME TOMORROW'S LAWSUIT.

Every unchecked risk is an open door to lawsuits, IRS audits, or reputational collapse. The longer you delay, the greater the chance of loss. Protecting your church is not optional, it's urgent and mandatory. The goal is to ensure that:

- ✓ Leaders are shielded, not sued
- ✓ Donations are preserved, not drained by fines
- ✓ Reputation strengthened, not destroyed by headlines
- ✓ Vision advanced, not stalled by legal battles
- ✓ Members are protected, not harmed
- ✓ Ministry expanded, not interrupted
- ✓ Lawsuits avoided, not settled
- ✓ Compliance secured, not questioned



Stewardship means covering both the spiritual and the legal. Start protecting your house now. Your people, your mission, your future, protect them with one call!

[Click Here to Book Your Protection Consultation Now](#)