

IMPROPER OR INADEQUATE SUPERVISION

It is impossible to over supervise. Probably **more litigation results** from "**failure to properly supervise**" than any other cause. If negligence cannot be found for any other reason, **attempts are made to find inadequate supervision.**

Instances where improper or inadequate supervision will likely be alleged are:

- The playground
- Sunday School
- Church outings
- Church-sponsored sporting events
- Church-sponsored field trips
- Church-sponsored swimming parties
- Church-sponsored fellowships
- Camps, such as Webster Conference Center and associational camps

Nursery and preschool departments must require very strict supervision and operational guidelines concerning the release of infants to adults. It is very important to have a "check-out" system for "bed babies," "toddlers" and "preschoolers" to insure that the proper parent or approved guardian is granted possession of the infant. It is suggested that a simple "coat check" system be used where a number is given to the parent or guardian placing the infant in the nursery and a matching number attached to the infant.

Another area of concern is the release of minors (under 18 years of age) from their classes before adults are released. This creates a period of time when the minors are loose to wander around; even known to leave church property. It is important to make sure that minors are not dismissed from any meeting before adults.

Proper location of supervisors on the playground or at the swimming pool is as important as the number of supervisors. Governmental authorities should be contacted prior to events on public property to determine any safety requirements and to notify authorities of the type of activity planned. Parents should be informed in writing of the exact nature of the planned event and the supervision to be given by the church. Written parental consent (Illustration G) should be obtained for any special event.

Qualifications required for supervisory personnel should be determined for each event. The church needs to provide people of mature judgment who have experience supervising groups of children or young people. The supervisors should not have a history of problems with assigned groups. Be certain that a thorough check has been made on any individual serving as a supervisor, especially those who are employees of the church-sponsored school. Do not enlist just any person or persons available. Select only responsible, mature adults.