

TAKING PICTURES AT CHURCH EVENT AND PUTTING THEM ON A WEBSITE OR PUBLICATION

During the year, churches and church parishes have a lot of additional activities, especially where children and youth are involved. And with these events you will find cameras to capture all the exciting activities.

People may wish to place these pictures onto the church's website or some other social media website.

The problem is that the church may NOT use anyone's image without his/her permission unless the photograph is taken in a public place. A church is not considered a public place. A church service or church events are open to the public but are not considered a public place because the church is not owned by a government and the government has not opened it to public access. Streets and parks are public places, but anything that is privately owned is not public.

We must be aware of the responsibilities related to the posting of photographs of individuals on websites or in printed material without permission or consideration.

What do I need to do?

1. Always get a permission slip or photo release form signed by the parent for any minor's photo.
2. Always get a permission slip or photo release form signed by any adult when his/her photo is used.

One way to accomplish this is to get the photo release or permission form signed when all of the other registration forms are filled out and signed for the event. By using a permission slip or release form, the person has authorized the church to use any photo that might be taken. Even with permission forms signed, all personal reference should be omitted.

If a volunteer for the event takes some pictures of the church event and places them on a social media website he/she should be asked to take them down. The church as an organization has the release or permission to use the photo while the volunteer does not.