

Screening in Faith – Step 1

Determine the Risk using the Ministry Risk Assessment Matrix

MINISTRY RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX – Examples			
Risk Level	Low	Medium	High
Participants	Able-bodied adult	15-year old	Vulnerable, for example: under-18, disabled, or in crisis
Setting	Onsite, with lots of people dropping in	At a public place, such as the park	In a participant’s home
Activity	Playing cards	Teaching basketball (physically risky)	Mentoring, counselling
Supervision	Supervisor always on site	Supervisor occasionally drops in; volunteer reports often	Little or no supervision

MINISTRY RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX – Version 1			
Risk Level	Low	Medium	High
Participants			
Setting			
Activity			
Supervision			

After the initial risk assessment is made, consider how to make this activity/ministry safer for the participants and the leaders. Perhaps the ministry could be a team effort. Perhaps the setting could be less isolated (by installing windows in doors, for example). Perhaps the activity could be less dangerous, (e.g., no bungee jumping). The supervisor and parents could be invited to drop in more often, and at unscheduled times. Then use the matrix below to revisit the job description and change some of its ingredients, to lower the risk.

MINISTRY RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX – Version 2			
Risk Level	Low	Medium	High
Participants			
Setting			
Activity			
Supervision/ Authority			

NB: A ministry is considered high risk when any one of the four factors (participants, setting, activity, supervision/authority) fall under the heading “High”. For example, teens = high risk participants; one-on-one = high risk setting; sleigh ride = high risk activity; wardens, church officials = high authority/trust