

# Keeping Everyone Safe

We're excited about the progress our ministry is making on all fronts. In Dallas, Fort Worth, Georgetown, and San Antonio we're beginning new partnerships with churches, community agencies, and pregnancy centers. As we move forward, we want to keep reminding coordinators, mentors, prayer partners, and church staff of a few steps we all need to take to insure that everyone and everything associated with the ONE BY ONE ministry is kept absolutely safe.

**First:** Coordinators and mentors, let's all do the paper work. Fill in the applications, forms, reports, etc. and mail them in as required. Coordinators, please complete the interview process and the background check on everyone who will go into a home. It's important that we finish every part of this process.

**Second:** Mentors, alert your prayer partner and family members of your home visits. Make sure that several people know when and where you'll be visiting. Take someone with you on the visit, if you prefer. While it's not required, many mentors take their prayer partner or a friend when they go visit. Then, call your prayer partner, coordinator, friend, or family member when the visit is completed to let them know you're headed home or that you are already home.

**Third:** Mentors, *please do not transport your mentee anywhere*. You may provide a bus pass or bus fare, but under our ONE BY ONE policies, you are not allowed to drive a mentee in your private vehicle. Following this policy to the letter will help to limit potential liability for your church, yourself, and ONE BY ONE, Ministries, Inc. in case of accidents.

**Fourth:** While small gifts for the mother and the baby are encouraged, the giving of money is NOT. When a need arises for the enrolled ONE BY ONE family, mentors should call the coordinator and report needs to her. The coordinator in turn can either contact that region's ONE BY ONE facilitator or director of operations, or contact church staff or the church's benevolence ministry. The ONE BY ONE office can generally supply a list of helping agencies which the family can access for help. We can only provide information and phone numbers. It is up to the mother and her family to contact the agencies.

**Fifth:** Remember that our role is to encourage parents, help provide parenting skill building, and to introduce others to the good news of Jesus Christ's love. This represents a tremendous amount of assistance to the family. We are NOT the answer to all the problems a family might have but we certainly want to provide any assistance we can.

Please live within the boundaries set by our ministry, and we'll be able provide a wonderful service to enrolled families for a long time.

Linda Hibner