

LEGAL OR FINANCIAL ADVICE & LIABILITY ISSUES

When training and preparing your Single & Parenting ministry team, it is important to stress that as leaders and facilitators, they must avoid giving legal or financial advice and should always be cognizant of potential liability issues. This is for the protection of your team members and your church.

LEGAL OR FINANCIAL ADVICE

As a Single & Parenting leader, you can provide solid, biblical insights about making wise decisions, but you should NOT recommend specific legal and financial steps a person should take. This is not the kind of input nor the kind of information a facilitator should be dispensing under any circumstances.

NEVER advise a participant to take specific legal actions such as filing for separation, freezing assets, contesting a will or similar steps. In doing so, you cross a line into practicing law. You may put yourself, your group or your church in peril, and risk assuming liability for your recommendations. The same rules apply on the Leaders' Forum when responding to questions posted there.

Remember, as facilitators we are not counselors, lawyers, accountants or judges. Also remember, it IS right to advise a person/family to seek safety if they are in immediate physical danger.

LIABILITY ISSUES

Regarding liability issues, most churches maintain insurance policies offering liability coverage for church activities, so you'll need to examine any liability issues with your church leadership.

If you are considering holding a group that meets in a home, it is essential that you first discuss with your pastor whether the church has appropriate liability coverage. (See the "Where to Meet" section in your Single & Parenting Leader's Guide for further details.)

Single & Parenting is not a counseling program, but it remains wise to have liability protection in place. Thankfully, we've seen few, if any, liability issues surface over the years, but it is clear that churches, as they minister in our culture, must be aware of and protected from liability risks.

Single & Parenting leaders should not give legal or financial advice to participants. Use wisdom in avoiding liability issues.