

Life Chain Guidelines To Assist Pastors

(Call _____ for Help with Any Life Chain Need)

Pastoral leadership is key to pro-life awareness. Passionate sermons and announcements from the pulpit can greatly multiply Life Chain attendance. The sheep know and follow their shepherds.

1. Help our church community build a true prayer chain by preparing your congregation for ____ minutes of prayer, meditation, and public witness that God can anoint and work through. Urge compassion for at-risk preborn neighbors, and please lead your congregation to the Life Chain route.
2. Discourage idle talk, frivolity, and interaction with motorists. Discourage "eating and drinking," save for small children. Everyone may consume water. Discourage sitting, except for the elderly and disabled (whom we want to attend and will probably need chairs). Dress discreetly and comfortably (for heat, cold, or rain). Encourage hats or umbrellas for all who need sun protection.
3. Feel free to provide your congregation prayer topics (in addition to those on the back of our Life Chain signs).
4. Give SAFETY due consideration: for preschoolers, the elderly, the disabled, and everyone else. Be an alert watchman, and use your cell phone to report any emergency or to seek proper help in a timely manner.
5. Space your people 25-100 feet apart, (to fill vacant spaces on both sides of the street and to reach every additional intersection possible).
6. To obtain signs, call _____. Collect and save your signs (for next year or for pickup). Original, non-graphic pro-life signs are welcomed when approved by the local Life Chain Coordinator. Graphic signs of aborted children and political messages are not acceptable.
7. Use public parking spaces and vacant parking lots (where businesses are closed). Avoid parking where merchants are open for business.
8. Defend your First Amendment "right" to witness on public sidewalks. If business personnel ask you to relocate, respectfully "stay and stand" for Life. If a business owner threatens to call the police, say, "I respect your right to do so," and then explain Life Chain's legal right to be on public property. Should police ask you to relocate, politely inform the officer that his (or her) request is in error. If forced to obey a police order, tell the officer that you obey "*under protest*" (to be filed later). Over 25,000 Life Chains have been held with rare (exceedingly rare) interference from the police. If we yield to one business owner's objection, what if 40 businesses (or every business in town) objects? We either defend our rights with a God-honoring spirit, or we will lose our rights.
9. Urge your congregation to arrive on time and assume their prayer chain position by _____ PM.
10. Your congregation can watch *National Life Chain Sunday* grow week by week at www.LifeChain.net. Simply click on any U.S. state or Canadian province and the Chains will appear. Life Chain's free prep documents are at www.NationalLifeChain.org.