



Livestreaming or sharing recordings from your church building: Safeguarding and GDPR

Sharing services online is an exciting opportunity to reach out, however, should be balanced with continuing to provide a safe and secure environment for all. Some members of our community may not feel comfortable appearing in video, and for others it may compromise their safety. Safeguarding, GDPR and marking out areas where filming won't take place are all key factors before any recordings are made.

Photo and video free zones: Create a space within your church building where people may sit and not be seen in a video. This could be a side aisle, or a few of the back rows. Simple signs will help people identify where this space is, and make sure that those who are filming or taking photos are aware. At the beginning of the service, remind people that the service will be recorded and give them opportunity to move.

GDPR and permissions for adults: Those appearing in video or photographs will need to have given you their permission. A photo release form can be signed by adults. The form must include all the places that the photo or video may be used by the church. Template photo release forms can be [downloaded here](#).

GDPR and permissions for children: Videos containing children may be used by the church if consent has been given by their parent or guardian. This needs to be signed consent and should include the places which the photo or video may be used by the church. If permission has not been given, it can be helpful to identify these children by using a simple paper wristband, or by asking them to sit in a photo and video free zone. Practically, seeking permission may need a few extra helpers on the day, working from a safe social distance. Alternatively, prepare ahead by sending out the forms to your church newsletter list to avoid queues on the day.

A template photo release form [can be downloaded here](#).

Read the [Safer Environments for Churches](#) guidance from the National Safeguarding Team which covers more on GDPR and safeguarding.

This advice was taken from a Church of England Labs Learning blog: [Supporting congregations and people exploring faith online as churches begin to reopen](#)

