

Life Chain Principles

Dear Fellow Life Chain Coordinator:

The following principles have sustained **Life Chain** since 1987, and I thank you for supporting them. They rely wholly on your loyalty and mine. To understand them fully and to ensure maximum Life Chain attendance, see the "Life Chain Materials" at *NationalLifeChain.org* or at *LifeChain.net*.

1. Notify local police of the time and place of your Chain. If you encounter difficulty with local officials, call 530-674-5068 for assistance, and delay your Chain until the problem is resolved. Documents under "Life Chain Materials" at NationalLifeChain.org help, but also call the national Life Chain office.
2. Insist on a true "prayer chain," free of frivolity, idle chatter, and interaction with motorists. Use back-printed signs that provide prayer topics and explain "Why We Are Here." Urge pastors to prepare their people for a time of prayer and purposeful reflection. Have pro-life literature available.
3. Respectfully urge senior pastors to "lead" their people to their local Chain and to passionately urge their church families to attend. Pastoral leadership is primary to our Chain's success.
4. Stress *safety*. Use sidewalks or wide road shoulders. Utilize trained and properly equipped marshals to supervise. Be able to reach emergency services at a moment's notice.
5. Please avoid all political activity! Only God can end abortion and meet our nation's vital needs.
6. Maximize your Life Chain. Space your participants up to 100 feet apart. Only 53 people will cover a full mile; 215 will cover 5 miles; 530 will cover 10 miles.
7. Use a Response (Survey) Form to recruit year-round volunteers. Sample form is in *Manual* and on LifeChain.net.
8. Inform participants of the nearest abortuary, and recruit sidewalk counselors through your Response Form if the abortuary is local or within reasonable driving distance.
9. Limit fund raising to a free-will offering to cover your costs.
10. Educate your participants about abortifacient birth controls by using an appropriate handout.
11. Encourage minorities and people of all faiths to attend your Christian-led Chain.
12. Half of our signs should be ***Abortion Kills Children***—Life Chain's foremost life-saving message. Millions of our fellow citizens support abortion, but very few of them will say, "I support 'killing' unborn children." Do not use graphic signs. They have purposeful uses, but Life Chain strives to move reluctant Christians from the pews to the sidewalks, and most of them are not ready for graphic signs.
13. Assist the media as best you can. Provide a press release, but do not worry about media coverage or allow pride (if attendance is weak) to steal your hope and trust. God can control public perception and turn "bad news" or even "no news" into favorable results.
14. Submit your Life Chain to God and seek His anointing. We build our Chain to serve as a witness for God to work through as He purposes.
15. The publicized Life Chain time period is 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. in each time zone, but each Coordinator may adjust the time to meet local needs. Please hold a 90-minute Chain if at all possible.
16. Life Chain warmly welcomes **Silent No More** members with their powerful ***I Regret My Abortion*** signs. Only women who have had abortions may hold that sign. Original signs are permitted, with Coordinator approval. See "Life Chain's Sign Policy" at NationalLifeChain.org.
17. Please report any accident, serious problem, or special blessing to the national Life Chain office. You are not asked to report attendance.

Thank you, Friend, for providing local leadership and for making ***National Life Chain Sunday*** a reality each October.

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