

# **Vigil Emergency Operations Guidelines & Plan**

**Protests targeting 40 days for life**

**Protests unrelated to 40 days for life**

**COVID-19 stay-at-home orders**

**Politics & political activity**

## **General Principles:**

*You are in control...*

Know your vigil and plan ahead. Monitor current events on your area. Stay safe (see App B - Commandments of Safety).

Handle problems promptly.

*An ounce of prevention...*

You know your community, participants & vigil best. Tailor the vigil plans for your particular situation. Review the plan with your team.

*Don't create your own emergency...*

If you think something is or may be unsafe, it probably is. If certain coverage hours are not safe, contact your national director to alter the hours.

*If you see something, say something...*

If you see anything unsafe or illegal, call 911.

*Know your participants ...*

If someone is likely to or is violating the statement of peace, address and correct it. Remove grave and/or habitual offenders.

*A picture is worth a thousand words...*

If you can do it safely, take video & film.

## The short list - "what if's"

What if...

*We feel unsafe at the vigil site?*

If you feel unsafe, you are unsafe. Leave the scene and notify your 40 Days for Life leader. Call 911 if there is a crime.

*Somebody is threatened, is touched, has his or her path blocked?*

Don't respond - call 911.

Get a photo or video of the aggressor and the license plate/vehicle description if possible.

*There is only one volunteer scheduled at the vigil site in a particular time slot?*

Bring a friend or recruit a prayer partner. Think Safety first!

*I am concerned a situation with a protester or passerby might escalate?*

Film and photograph the situation if you can safely do so.

Call 911.

*Police or a government authority orders vigil participants to leave the vigil?*

Be polite!

Comply!

Contact your local 40 Days for Life leader who will contact the Headquarters Team for a referral to legal counsel.

*I find out a rally or political event will be taking place near the vigil site, and attendees or counter demonstrators are likely to engage or harass vigil participants?*

Inform the local leader, who will alert participants.

The vigil will be suspended until it is safe to resume.

*If a vigil is suspended, but a volunteer refuses to stay home?*

The volunteer must be disassociated from the local 40 days for life campaign.

*If a campaign participant has been diagnosed with covid-19?*

Follow valid governmental orders.

Get tested.

Do not attend the vigil if sick.

Do not attend the vigil if symptomatic.

*A covid-19 contact tracer asks for names and contact information of vigil participants?*

Refuse unless they have a valid governmental order.

*If I am asked to promote a candidate for elected office or particular law?*

As a leader, I am not allowed to promote or oppose candidates for elected office, ballot initiatives, or legislation using the 40 Days for Life campaign, name, logo, email list, webpage, social media pages, or in any other way.

*As a leader, I want to engage in political/legislative activism?*

I can do it! But it must be kept completely separate from my participation in 40 days for Life. I cannot wear 40 Days for Life gear or identify myself by my 40 Days for Life role when engaging in political/legislative advocacy.

*I want to host a politician at the vigil.*

See the "politicians at events" section of Appendix B: Political Activities Policy. In the event that this situation were to arise, the 40 Days for Life Headquarters Team must approve the event and restrictions will apply.

*Someone purporting to be with the media wants to interview me, but I am unfamiliar or uncomfortable with the reporter or media outlet.*

Email your 40 Days for Life local leader / headquarters team contact. You do not need to give any on-the-spot interviews.

## Protests targeting 40 days for life

### **Every vigil deals with "counter-protestors" to a degree....**

*A blessing in disguise?*

Planned Parenthood has a policy requesting no counter- protestors - they harm their business more than we do.

Counter-protestors are usually loud, obnoxious and draw far more attention than we do.

Remain calm.

Do not respond in kind - respond with love.

Monitor the news and social media chatter... be prepared.

If unsafe, call 911.

## Protests unrelated to 40 days for life

Civil unrest and violence are taking place across the U.S. and the world. A bitterly contested election has given rise to protests in most cities.

Monitor news, social media, local law enforcement websites & community development websites for permits & scheduled protests, demonstrations & rallies near the vigil.

If there is an event with the potential to lead to disruption or civil unrest that affects our vigil, our vigil will be suspended until the protest is finished.

If possible, any suspended vigil times will be move to a church or churches for prayer and spiritual communion.

Participants will be notified with an e-mail blast and the website will be updated in the 'Event Section'.

40 Days for Life Vigils are NOT to be combined with other protests.

If an unscheduled protest comes our way, the vigil will be suspended until it is finished... AND actual engagement and/or the appearance of such must be avoided.

Do not engage other protestors - it is off mission.

40 Days for Life media is NOT to be used to promote or comment on other protests & rallies.

## Politics & political activities

A NOTE SPECIFICALLY FOR 40 DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN LEADERS (worth reading for all so you understand the restrictions placed on us):

The 2020 elections will be bitterly contested, and abortion will likely be in the spotlight.

Local leaders may be pressured to use your influence as a local 40 Days for Life leader to support or oppose candidates, ballot, initiatives & legislation.

For the protection of the 40DFL mission, it is critically important to keep your 40 Days for Life campaign completely separate from political and legislative activity!

See Appendix B: Political Activities Policy.

## Covid-19 and stay-at-home orders

40 Days for Life encourages leaders and participants to follow valid governmental health orders.

If a stay-at-home or other order is issued in our area and we are unsure whether and how our campaign must obey it, we will contact the National Team and discuss options and guidance for obtaining outside legal counsel to give us a written opinion.

## **Appendix A: Contacts**

In the event of an emergency, please contact your local 40 Days for Life leader immediately who will get in touch with the Headquarters Team for guidance.

By contacting your appropriate 40 days for life contact right away, we will be best positioned to help you with:

- Answers to legal questions or referral to local counsel (if your rights are violated, you are given a citation, you are attacked by abortion supporters, you need help interpreting your legal rights, you don't understand how to comply with a stay-at-home order, etc.)
- Media interactions
- Security
- Replacement supplies
- On-the-ground support

See website for local contact information: [40daysforlife.com/tempe](http://40daysforlife.com/tempe)

## **Appendix B: Commandments of Safety**

- 1. Stay safe, always.**
- 2. Try to have at least two vigil participants at all times.**
- 3. Never be alone after dark.**
- 4. Conduct the vigil in a safe and public or otherwise lawful location.**
- 5. If you feel threatened, leave and call the police.**
- 6. If your path is blocked, call the police.**
- 7. If you are touched, call the police.**
- 8. If you can safely do so, photograph/film events.**
- 9. If the police arrive, be polite and cooperative.**
- 10. If you are ordered to leave by competent governmental authority, do so and contact your local 40 Days for Life leader who will contact the National Headquarters Team.**
- 11. Do not trespass.**
- 12. Do not threaten.**
- 13. Do not touch others.**
- 14. Do not display or discuss weapons.**
- 15. Do not curse.**
- 16. Do not block anyone's path/right-of-way.**
- 17. Obey all laws**

## **Appendix C: Political Activities Policy**

For the protection of the 40 Days for Life mission, it is essential to keep 40 Days for Life and political activism completely separate. Failure to keep 40 Days for Life out of politics poses many concerns, including:

1. Revocation of 501(c)(3) charitable, tax- exempt status.
2. Fines and/or administrative or court hearings.
3. Dilution of and time away from the mission.

### What you can do:

1. Encourage everyone to "vote pro-life".
2. Encourage people to support pro-life legislation in general and the defunding of all abortion.
3. Educate people on pro-life issues and laws that have been passed or are being considered.
4. Forward proposed state and local pro-life laws and initiatives to the 40 Days for Life Headquarters Team for further guidance.

### What you cannot do:

1. Endorse or encourage people to vote for a particular candidate or platform.
2. Endorse a particular political party or party platform.
3. Raise or accept money for, or give money to a political candidate, platform or party.

### **No endorsement or opposition to candidates/policy proposals**

On the campaign application, every approved local campaign leader pledges "to keep completely separate from your local 40 Days for Life efforts advocating for or against any candidate for elective office and advocating for or against any proposed or actual legislation or ballot initiative.

This does not mean that local leaders may not engage in any of the political or legislative process as individuals. They simply cannot do so in their capacity as 40 Days for Life leaders. They cannot use the 40 Days for Life name, trademark, webpages, intellectual property, local vigils, volunteer lists, or campaign events to do so.

Furthermore, it does not mean that local campaigns may not support general pro-life positions. For example, a campaign can promote defunding Planned Parenthood. However, a campaign cannot be used to rally phone calls to support a specific piece of legislation that would defund Planned Parenthood. Likewise, while a campaign can encourage supporters to "vote pro-life", the campaign should not advocate for a particular candidate or political party.

## **Politicians at events**

Local 40 Days for Life leaders often like to have politicians speak at their vigils and campaign events. While 40 Days for Life is not opposed to this, certain precautions must be taken. If you wish to host a politician at a campaign event, please request written clearance from your 40 Days for Life Headquarters Team contact. In your request, please provide the following information:

1. What is the politician's name and political party?
2. Who invited the politician? Or did the politician make an unsolicited offer to speak?
3. Are any other politicians invited/attending?
4. Is the politician from the district where the vigil is held? If not, how far away is the district?
5. When is the politician next running for election?
6. What would the politician speak about?

A politician can never solicit votes or campaign contributions while speaking at a 40 Days for Life event. The vigil cannot endorse the candidate or raise money for them.