

Life Chain Principles (2011)

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. For further discussion of them, see the *Life Chain Manual* at www.NationalLifeChain.org or www.LifeChain.net,

1. Notify your local police of the time and place of your Chain. If you encounter difficulty with police officials, call 530-674-5068 for assistance and delay your Chain until the problem is resolved. *The Life Chain Manual* offers help, but also call 530-674-5068.
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. Provide pro-life literature as needed.
3. Respectfully urge senior pastors to “lead” their people to their local Life Chain—and to passionately urge their church families to attend. Let not the Unborn die in vain.
4. Stress safety. Use sidewalks or wide road shoulders. Utilize trained marshals.
5. Please avoid all political activity! Only God can meet our nation’s most urgent 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*).
8. Inform participants of the nearest abortuary and recruit sidewalk counselors through your Response Form (if the abortuary is nearby 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 (use an appropriate handout).
11. Urge minority participation. Invite people of all faiths to your Chain, but Christians should provide the leadership.
12. Use only approved Life Chain signs. Half of them should be ***Abortion Kills Children***—Life Chain’s foremost life-saving message. Millions of our fellow citizens support abortion, but very few of them 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 they 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 trust. God can control public perception and turn “bad news” into favorable results.
14. Submit your Life Chain to God and seek His anointing.
15. The publicized Life Chain time period is 2:00 – 3:30 PM in each time zone, but Coordinators may adjust the time to accommodate local need.
16. Members of Silent No More are urged to attend all Life Chains and hold their powerful ***I Regret My Abortion*** signs. Only women who have had abortions may hold that sign.
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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www.NationalLifeChain.org and www.LifeChain.net