

Privacy Policy

Mizpah is software that helps a church keep watch over its people. This policy says, in plain words, what we hold, why, who can see it, and what you can ask of us.

Mizpah is made and operated by ADGA Agency LLC ("Mizpah", "we", "us"). Write to us at alberto@mizpah.dev.

1. Who this policy covers

Three kinds of people:

- **Visitors** to mizpah.dev.
- **Church staff** who sign in to Mizpah on behalf of their church.
- **Church members and visitors** — the people a church keeps a record of in Mizpah. We call them "members" below, whether or not they have formally joined.

2. Our role: Mizpah works for your church

When a church uses Mizpah, **the church owns its records and decides how they are used**. We act on the church's instructions, under a written agreement with that church (our Data Processing Agreement). In the language of privacy law, the church is the controller and we are its processor or service provider.

This matters for members: if you want to see, correct or remove what your church holds about you, your church can do it directly, and we will help it do so. You may also write to us, and we will pass your request to your church and help it answer promptly.

3. What we collect on mizpah.dev

- **Walkthrough requests.** If you ask for a walkthrough, we keep what you type: your name, church, email address and anything you write to us. We use it to reply and to arrange the walkthrough, and for nothing else.
- **Server logs.** Our hosting provider records the usual technical details of a visit (IP address, browser, pages requested) to keep the site running and secure.
- **Cookies.** The site sets no advertising or tracking cookies and uses no third-party analytics.

4. What Mizpah holds for a church

Only what a church puts in, imports from its own records, or connects. Today that can include:

CATEGORY	EXAMPLES	WHO IN THE CHURCH CAN SEE IT
People and households	Name, birthday, household and family relationships, membership status, when they first came, which groups and ministries they belong to	Staff with office or pastor access
Contact details and consent	Email, phone, address; a record of what each person agreed to receive, and when	Staff with office or pastor access
Attendance	Which Sundays and events a person was present	Staff with office or pastor access
Pastoral care	Notes a pastor writes after a conversation; follow-ups; prayer requests and who is praying	Pastors, and the people a pastor assigns
Children	Birthday, grade, school, allergies, emergency contact, as entered by a parent or the church	Staff with office or pastor access, and the ministry team that cares for them
Messages	What the church sent, to whom, and when — so nobody is sent the same note twice	Staff with office or pastor access
Serving	Which teams a person serves on and when they are scheduled	Staff and team leaders
Giving	If the church connects its giving tool: totals and trends by month. Mizpah does not hold card or bank numbers, and does not display a family's individual gifts.	Only the staff the church names for giving questions

The church sets each staff member's access level (pastor, administrator, staff, volunteer). Volunteers see only what their team needs.

5. How we use it — and how we don't

- We use church records **only to provide Mizpah to that church**: to show its staff who needs care, to send the messages its staff decide to send, and to work in the tools the church has connected.
- We **do not sell** personal information, and we **do not use it for advertising** — ours or anyone else's.
- We do not use one church's records to serve another church, and we do not combine records across churches.
- We may count things in aggregate with nobody identifiable (for example, how many churches use a feature) to run and improve the service.
- The "gone quiet" and "needs follow-up" signals Mizpah shows exist only so a pastor notices a person. They are seen by the circle the church sets, and are used for nothing else.

6. Who we share it with

We never give church records to anyone except:

a. The services Mizpah runs on

Each one handles data only on our instructions, under its own contract with us:

SERVICE	WHAT IT DOES	BASED IN
Supabase	Database and sign-in	United States company
Netlify	Hosting and serving the application	United States company
Resend	Delivering email the church sends from Mizpah	United States company

b. The tools a church chooses to connect

Only when the church turns a connection on, and only for what the church asks Mizpah to do there. Today: **Google (Gmail)**, to send a pastor's personal notes from the pastor's own mailbox, and **iContact**, where a church uses it for its church-wide letter. Other tools a church already uses (for example Planning Center, for teams and schedules) are connected only at that church's request, and are added to this policy before they are switched on. Mizpah **sends or changes nothing until a staff member presses the button**, and keeps a record of what was sent.

Mizpah's use of information received from Google APIs adheres to the [Google API Services User Data Policy](#), including the Limited Use requirements.

c. When the law requires it

If we receive a subpoena, court order or other lawful demand, we will tell the church before responding unless the law forbids us to, and we will disclose only what we are legally required to disclose.

d. If Mizpah changes hands

If Mizpah is sold or merges with another company, church records may pass to the new owner as part of that, and this policy continues to apply to them.

Text messages are sent from a pastor's own phone; Mizpah does not send texts itself and holds no texting service.

7. How we protect it

- Data is encrypted in transit (TLS) and at rest in our database provider.
- Every record is protected by access rules enforced in the database itself, so a signed-in person can only reach what their role allows. Pastoral notes can be read by pastors only.
- Every message sent through Mizpah is logged: what, to whom, by whom, and when.
- A staff member's access ends the moment the church removes them.

- Access to Mizpah's production systems is limited to the people who run the service.

8. If something goes wrong

If we learn that church records have been accessed or exposed without authorization, we will tell the affected church promptly after confirming it, say what we know, and help the church tell its people where the law or good conscience requires.

9. How long we keep it

- Church records: for as long as the church uses Mizpah.
- When a church leaves: it receives a complete export (CSV and JSON) on request, and we then delete its records from our systems. Copies in backups expire on their normal schedule.
- A single person's record: deleted when the church asks, on the same timetable.
- Walkthrough requests on mizpah.dev: kept 12 months, then deleted.

10. Children

A church may record information about children in its care, entered by a parent or by the church. Mizpah never sends a message to a child: a note about a child's birthday goes to a parent. Children's records are visible only to the staff and ministry team who care for them. A parent may see, correct or remove their child's record through the church at any time. Mizpah does not knowingly collect information directly from a child under 13.

11. What you can ask

Whether or not a particular law gives you the right, we will honour these for any member of a church that uses Mizpah:

- **See** the record your church holds about you.
- **Correct** anything that is wrong.
- **Delete** your record when you leave your church, or earlier if the church agrees.
- **Stop messages** at any time: reply "stop" to a text, use the unsubscribe link in an email, or tell your church. Your consent record is updated and every message from Mizpah respects it.
- **Know who can see** pastoral notes about you: your church's pastors and no one else, unless a pastor assigns a specific person to a follow-up.

Ask your church first; it can act at once. Or write to us and we will route it. We never charge for these requests and never treat you differently for making one.

12. Where your information is

Mizpah is operated from the United States, on services run by United States companies. If your church is outside the United States, your information is handled there on the church's

behalf.

13. Changes to this policy

If we change this policy in a way that reduces a protection, we will tell every church in writing at least 30 days before it takes effect, and we will keep earlier versions available on request.

14. Contact

ADGA Agency LLC, doing business as Mizpah
alberto@mizpah.dev