

Safe Church
Overview of Requirements of Pennsylvania and Canon Law
The Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem
Updated June 2019

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires all active clergy (including supply), lay employees, vestry members, and volunteers to obtain clearances in order to continue their positions. The law also requires that employees and volunteers be considered mandated reporters of suspected child abuse. All current clergy and employees must be in compliance with these policies, and clearances need to be renewed every 60 months.

In addition to Pennsylvania law, all active clergy (including supply), lay employees, vestry members, volunteers, and key holders, and teenage assistants (14-17 years) in the Diocese of Bethlehem must complete Safeguarding Trainings. These trainings must be renewed every 36 months. Safeguarding Training is done online. If you do not yet have a username and password, please complete the [Safeguarding Online Training request form](#) (fillable PDF) and email the form to [Paula Lapinski](mailto:Paula.Lapinski).

Please view the appropriate section below to see details about what steps you need to take in order to be compliant with Pennsylvania and Canon law. All links and documents referenced in this guide can be accessed at <https://www.diobeth.org/congregational-resources/parish-management/safe-church>

If you have any questions or run into any issues, please contact Paula at paula@diobeth.org or Megan at megan@diobeth.org, or call 610-691-5655.

Requirements for Keyholders/ Volunteer Teenage Assistants (14-17 years)

In the Diocese of Bethlehem we are committed to establishing and maintaining safe environments for children in our congregations and church buildings. All parishes are required to adhere to the Diocesan Policies for the Protection of Children and Youth from Abuse adopted by Diocesan Council, which are available for download.

[Diocesan Policies](#) (updated March 2019).

1) Complete all required Safeguarding courses online.

All required modules must be completed on the [SafeGuarding website](#). Please note the required modules changed in 2019. SafeGuarding training must be completed every 36 months.

If you've registered previously, your username is your first initial followed by your last name (ex: mdembi), and your password is the last four digits of your phone number followed by "pa" (ex: 5151pa). If you are unable to login, you can click the "I forgot my username/password" links on the bottom of the login screen for help. If you are still unable to login, or you have not yet registered, please email [Paula Lapinski](#), and she will provide you with a username and password.

The following modules must be completed:

Meet Sam
It Happened to Me
Keeping Your Church Safe
Safeguarding God's People: Preventing Sexual Exploitation – for Congregations
Your Policies
Duty to Report – Mandated Reporter
Social Media Safety
Abuse Risk Management for Volunteers

Beginning in 2021, if you've completed all trainings listed above, you may renew your training every 36 months by completing the following modules:

Safeguarding God's People: Preventing Sexual Exploitation – for Congregations
Your Policies
Duty to Report – Mandated Reporter
Social Media Safety
Abuse Prevention Refresher

There are additional modules you'll need to take if your church runs a camp or a school.

Please consult the attached chart to ensure you are completing the correct modules.

| | Clergy, Staff & Vestry | Clergy, Staff & Vestry Renewal | Volunteers & Keyholders | Volunteers & Keyholders Renewal | Pre-Schools (Grace Montessori, St. Gabriel's, St. Alban's, St. Stepehn's- Whitehall) | Pre-School Renewal | Cathedral addition for Camp Staff |
|---|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|---|
| Meet Sam | x | | x | | x | | |
| It Happened to Me | x | | x | | x | | |
| Preventing Sexual Activity Between Young Children | x | | | | x | | x |
| Keeping Your Church Safe | x | | x | | | | |
| Safeguarding God's People: Preventing Sexual Exploitation - for Congregations | x | x | x | x | | | |
| Your Policies | x | | x | | | | |
| Safeguarding God's People: Preventing Sexual Harassment - for Managers & Supervisors | x | | | | | | |
| Duty to Report Mandated Reporter | x | x | x | x | x | x | |
| Social Media Safety | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Abuse Prevention Refresher | | x | | x | | x | |
| Abuse Risk Management for Volunteers | | | x | | | | |
| Keeping Your School Safe | | | | | x | x | |
| Preventing Bullying | | | | | x | | x |
| Safeguarding God's People: Preventing Sexual Haraament - for workers | | | | | x | x | |
| Keeping Your Camp Safe | | | | | | | x |