

KEEPING GOD'S PEOPLE SAFE ✘

Our shared job in the Diocese of Chicago

KEEPING GOD'S PEOPLE SAFE (KGPS) trains a congregation's leaders to be watchful, so they can help prevent sexual misconduct from occurring in their midst. It's composed of three sections:

- ✘ PROTECTING GOD'S PEOPLE, LEVEL ONE
- ✘ LEADING & CARING FOR GOD'S PEOPLE, LEVEL TWO
- ✘ TRAINING YOUNG LEADERS

PROTECTING GOD'S PEOPLE (Level One) is the first step in the **KGPS** program. Each of us shares the honor of helping shape a child's environment. For this reason, the class is suitable for all adult members of the congregation – even those without children. The sexual abuse of children is not exclusively a church problem; it happens wherever children gather.

PROTECTING GOD'S PEOPLE can be added to adult education programs or made part of a parenting class series. Inviting the larger community to a session could be a valuable way of reaching out to a church's neighbors. All church and church-agency personnel, paid & volunteer, need to participate in Level One training.

LEADING & CARING FOR GOD'S PEOPLE (Level Two) has two goals. First, Church leaders learn of ways to form abuse-resistant organizations and discuss ways of sharing this awareness throughout their communities. The second purpose calls attention to unintended consequences that can arise in pastoral relationships. Care-givers need to be cautiously mindful of their own needs. By appropriately caring for themselves, they can be the caring and careful care-givers the Holy Spirit inspires.

Vestry/Bishop's Committee Members, Program Directors, Youth Group Leaders & Chaperones, Lay Pastoral Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors and ALL employees (clergy & lay, full & part-time) need to participate in both levels of training.

TRAINING FOR YOUNG LEADERS is geared to meet the interests of 13-17 year olds. Discussion topics include recognizing abusive relationships, learning to avoid compromising situations and resisting sexual abuse.

Youth and teens participating on mission trips, pilgrimages or out-of-the-Diocese trips need to participate in a "Training for Young Leaders" session BEFORE the group's departure. Session arrangements are made through the Pastoral Care Office.

Through **TRAINER-TRAINING** participating churches and agencies are able to schedule and conduct Level One sessions, PROTECTING GOD'S PEOPLE, within their own congregations. When a Church/Agency has its own Level I Trainer it is possible make the effort to decrease child sexual abuse a part of your common life. Sessions can be scheduled to best fit the congregation's schedule. The presence of a local trainer also offers a church an easy way of sharing the information to the larger community. The sexual abuse of children is not exclusively a church problem; it happens wherever children gather.

At a Trainer-Training, the Level I team learns how to explain ways to prevent abuse as they discuss some of the common misconceptions people have about abuse and abusers. The Trainers learn to recognize elements in a church, school or community that can contribute to a risky environment, and, MORE importantly, the Trainers teach how those risks can be easily minimized.

The goal is that each church will take time, at least once-a-year, to consider our responsibilities: to our children, to ourselves, to each other and to our communities.

For more information, please contact Elizabeth Erickson, Program Coordinator for **KEEPING GOD'S PEOPLE SAFE**, at erickson@episcopalchicago.org or 312-751-4212 Contact The Rev. Canon Randall R. Warren, Canon for Pastoral Care, at rwarren@episcopalchicago.org or 312-751-4209.



EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CHICAGO

KEEPING GOD'S PEOPLE SAFE

Requirements/ Recommendations for Training and Background Checks Of Church Workers Who Are Not Clergy

<p>R = Required S = Strongly Recommended N = Not Required</p> <p><i>NOTE: All paid staff, seminarians and clergy -- deacons, priests & bishops -- must attend <u>both</u> Training levels. Clergy and seminarians must cooperate with a 15-year background check; lay employees must cooperate with a 5 or 15-year background check, depending upon the position.</i></p>	LEVEL 1 Training: Protecting God's People	LEVEL 2 Training: leading & Caring for God's People	5 Year Background Reference Check	Driving Record Report	Credit Report
CHURCH STAFF					
Church Administrator	R	R	R	N	S
Treasurer (paid)	R	R	R	N	R
Secretarial Staff	R	R	R	N	N
Treasurer (volunteer)	R	R	R	N	R
Custodial Staff	R	R	R	N	N
Church/Agency Bus Driver	R	R	R	R	N
Church Nurse	R	R	R	N	N
CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMS					
Director of Religious Education	R	R	R	S	N
Youth Group Leader	R	R	R	S	N
Acolyte Director	R	R	R	S	N
Volunteer Church School Teacher	R	N	R	S	N
Nursery Workers	R	N	R	N	N
Youth Group Volunteer	R	R	R	S	N
Car Pool Driver	R	S	N	R	N
ADULT PROGRAMS					
Vestry Member	R	R	N	N	N
Church Musician/Organist/Choir Master	R	R	R	N	S
Adult Education Teachers	R	R	N	N	N
Worship Leaders/Licensed Lay Readers	R	R	N	N	N
Lay Pastoral Care-giver/ Counselor/Spiritual Director	R	R	R	N	N
Lay Eucharist Visitors (LEV or LEM)/Stephen Ministries	R	R	R	N	N
Lay Preachers/Lay Evangelists	R	R	R	N	N
Chalice Bearers/Lay Readers	R	N	N	N	N
Guild Director or Committee Chair (of non-Children/Youth activities)	R	N	N	N	N