

COURT-CLERGY CONFERENCE 2019

Topic: MANDATED REPORTING – SPECIAL ISSUES

**Speakers: Hon. Laura W. Halgren
Hon. Marian F. Gaston**

What are three main points that the clergy should know about this subject?

- Clergy, teachers, and teacher's aides are mandated reporters of child abuse and elder/dependent adult abuse
- Reasonable suspicion of abuse triggers the duty to report
- There is no requirement to report when the information is obtained in a "penitential communication"

What are three ways in which clergy can help their congregants?

- Provide safe environment training to all staff
- Include safe environment resource information on the congregation website and bulletin boards
- Incorporate age appropriate safe environment materials in religious education curricula for children

Three websites where clergy can go to learn more:

- www.sandiegocounty.gov/hhsa - Type "Mandated Reporters" in the search box
- <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/ap/childabusereportingguide.asp>
- <https://mandatedreporterca.com/> - Excellent online training for clergy

Contact names, phone numbers and email addresses if clergy have questions:

- Child Welfare Services Child Abuse Hotline (San Diego County): 858-560-2191
- Adult Protective Services (San Diego County): 800-510-2020