COURT-CLERGY CONFERENCE 2022

Topic: MANDATED REPORTER REQUIREMENTS AND THE ROLE OF CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

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](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/hhsa) - Type “Mandated Reporters” in the search box

• [https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/ap/childabusereportingguide.asp](https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/ap/childabusereportingguide.asp)

• [https://mandatedreporterca.com/](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): 800-339-4661