

No Longer will violence be heard  
in your land, nor ruin and  
destruction within your borders.

You will call your walls Salvation,  
and your gates, Praise.

Isaiah 60: 18

A vision of non-violence for our  
community, school, home and  
place of worship is one that  
people of faith can embrace.

Yet visions can't be claimed  
because they sound good. It  
takes hard work to live into a  
vision.

Samaritan SafeChurch engages  
congregations in the process of  
working toward this vision.



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[www.samaritansafechurch.org](http://www.samaritansafechurch.org)

## New PA Child Welfare Portal!



### Online system for mandated reporters to electronically file required reports of suspected child abuse:

<https://www.compass.state.pa.us/CWIS/Public/Home>

Mandated reporters may set up an account  
on the portal. If you file suspected abuse  
reports via the portal, you can avoid the  
follow-up paperwork required when you  
elect to call ChildLine rather than use the  
Portal

Visit [www.samaritansafechurch.org](http://www.samaritansafechurch.org)

### Learn

How to enroll your church

How to get trained as a facilitator

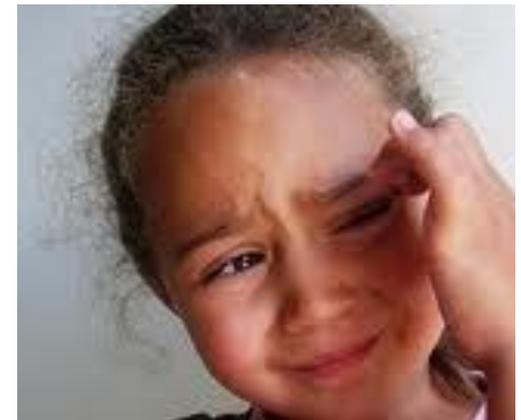
SafeChurch for seminaries

About our national pilot program &

Social movement building work



### Making the Call: Reporting Suspected Child Abuse in PA



Child Line: 1 800 932 0313

## Who is a mandated reporter in PA?

Any adult (18+) who routinely interacts with children in the course of his or her paid or unpaid role as an integral part of a regularly scheduled program, activity or service; or who supervises those who do.

A mandated reporter has a legal obligation to report suspected child abuse. Failure to do so may result in criminal or civil charges.

**A child is anyone under age 18!**



This applies to churches, as well as other not-for-profit organizations.

## When do I need to report?

- 1) If you have 'reasonable cause' to suspect, a child discloses, or you learn from a 3<sup>rd</sup> party that a child participating in a program or activity of the church has been abused by anyone, anywhere. See 23PA§6311(b)

You are not to investigate to be certain abuse has occurred. A reasonable cause standard is one in which any other 'reasonable' person would have made the report.

The following two items require a report, regardless of whether the child is connected to the church, or where you hear about it.

- 2) You receive a specific disclosure that an identifiable child has been abused.
- 3) A person 14 or older makes a disclosure to you that he or she has abused a child.

## How do I report in a church setting?

### Legal Obligations: Follow this sequence!

1<sup>st</sup> IMMEDIATELY REPORT to ChildLine at 1 800 932 0313 OR make your report on-line at <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/CWIS/Public/Home>, the PA Department of Human Services Child Welfare Portal.

2<sup>nd</sup> INFORM the person in charge (this person should be identified in your policy).

3<sup>rd</sup> IF you chose to call ChildLine rather than make an on-line report:

- File a written report called a CY-47 with your local Child Protective Services agency within 48 hours of your report.

Your identity is protected under PA law.

## What if I am not a mandated reporter?

**Keeping children safe from harm is every adult's responsibility.** You don't have to be a mandated reporter to report suspected or disclosed abuse. While the on-line mandated reporting system is only used by mandated reporters, ANYONE can report suspected child abuse!

**Simply call Childline at 1 800 932 0313.**

If you are NOT a mandated reporter, you are not required to file any paperwork, or inform anyone you have made the call. ChildLine has a legal obligation to keep your name confidential.

### Contact Us

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This information is not advice, and should not be treated as such. If you have questions about any legal matter, you should consult your attorney or other legal professional.