

Dove's Nest: Amish and Old Order Mennonites & Child Safety



A cultural competency training for social service systems and workers to better relate to Amish and Old Order Mennonites

Training Goals

Equip social service systems and workers with the knowledge and skills to relate effectively with Plain communities, such as Amish and Old Order Mennonites, to keep children safe. Learn how to conduct investigations and prepare safety plans and how to recruit and support foster and adoptive homes in these conservative communities.

Who Are the Amish and Mennonites?

There are more than 300,000 Amish and 30,000 Old Order Mennonites in the United States. The Amish are the fastest growing subculture, religious or nonreligious, in North America. While most live in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Indiana, the Amish can now be found in more than 30 states and 4 Canadian provinces. They live in a way that is consistent with their faith and culture and as independent as possible from outside influences, including the government and media.

Topics Covered

- History, prevalence, and structure of Plain communities
- Core elements of faith and culture
- Effective strategies for social services at the micro, meso, and macro levels

Quotes from Training Participants:

This training gave us direction and confidence.

—social service worker

It was a great way to open the door [into Plain communities].... We hope not to have any [abuse referrals], but we are feeling a lot more prepared now if we do.

—social service worker

The most helpful thing about the training is that it helps social services see that we are ordinary people.... We may do things different than non-conservative people, but we still have the same goals. We want to make sure our loved ones are safe.

—member of the Plain community

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Professor at University of Nebraska at Omaha, Grace Abbott School of Social Work; Cofounder of Dove's Nest: Faith Communities Keeping Children & Youth Safe

To request a training and for more information:

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