

Legal Issues

Reporting Abuse




Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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Abuse Reporting Requirements for Clergy

Where can I find resources that provide information on child abuse reporting and clergy reporting laws relating to child abuse in my state?

For general information see: [The Child Welfare Information Gateway](#) and [Clergy as Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect : Full-Text Excerpts of State Laws](#)

Please be aware that any Internet site may not be complete or current on all state requirements. It is always important to consult with an experienced attorney who works with the child abuse reporting laws of your state when questions and concerns arise.

Also, when seeking to understand child abuse reporting it is important to have read [ELCA Constitutional provision 7.45](#).  Questions regarding this constitutional provision should be reviewed with your synod office or other knowledgeable ELCA advisor.

Abuse by Clergy and Lay Leaders

All forms of sexual misbehavior by clergy and lay leaders with church members are unacceptable within the life of the church. The church should be a safe place where people can worship, learn, work, love and receive care in a manner that is free from sexual misconduct. To learn more or to report abuse, click [here](#).

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