



# Safe Church, Safe Communities

## Training Requirements

### Possible Waivers

#### Professionals Licensed by the Commonwealth

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires professionals in many fields to meet strict standards that have been set by State licensing boards in the relevant disciplines. In some cases, those standards include training and/or continuing education in child abuse recognition and reporting. Individuals who wish to work with children and youth in the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh and can show evidence that they are currently licensed by the Commonwealth in one of these professions may therefore ask to be excused from completing some of the training modules prescribed in Section V of the Diocese's *Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth*.<sup>\*</sup> The Bishop, Clergy in Charge, Senior Warden, or Supervisor (as appropriate) may or may not grant or deny their request based on the nature of the role the individual will fill and other factors identified during the application and screening process.

All the following professional licenses include identical provisions regarding child abuse recognition and reporting: for initial licensure, they require 3 hours of Board-approved continuing education in child abuse recognition and reporting; thereafter, they require 2 additional hours for each renewal.

- Athletic Trainer
- Audiologist
- Behavior Specialist
- Certified Nurse  
Midwife
- Certified Registered  
Nurse Practitioner
- Chiropractor
- Clinical Nurse  
Specialist
- Clinical Social Worker
- Dental Assistant –  
Expanded Function
- Dental Hygienist
- Dentist
- Funeral Director
- Funeral Supervisor
- Genetic Counselor
- Licensed Dietician-  
Nutritionist
- Licensed Practical  
Nurse
- Marriage and Family  
Therapist
- Massage Therapist
- Nursing Home  
Administrator
- Occupational Therapist
- Occupational Therapy  
Assistant

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<sup>\*</sup> Modules that might be waived are those on **Healthy Boundaries, Abuse and Neglect, and Duty to Report—Mandated Reporter**. The modules on **Introduction and Theological Background** and **Organizational Rules and Policies**, as well as the mandatory review of Diocesan Policies will never be waived.

- Optometrist—  
Diagnostic
- Optometrist—  
Therapeutic
- Optometrist—  
Therapeutic and  
Glaucoma
- Orthotic Fitter
- Orthotist
- Osteopathic  
Acupuncturist
- Osteopathic Genetic  
Counselor
- Osteopathic  
Perfusionist
- Osteopathic Physician  
and Surgeon
- Osteopathic  
Respiratory Therapist
- Pedorthist
- Perfusionist
- Pharmacist
- Physical Therapist
- Physical Therapy  
Assistant
- Physician and Surgeon
- Physician  
Acupuncturist
- Podiatrist
- Practitioner of Oriental  
Medicine
- Professional Counselor
- Prosthetist
- Psychologist
- Registered Nurse
- Respiratory Therapist
- Social Worker
- Speech Language  
Pathologist

Initial licensure as an Acupuncturist, Pharmacy Intern or Physician Assistant also requires 3 hours of Board-approved continuing education in child abuse recognition and reporting but there is no requirement of any additional hours for renewals.

For details regarding the requirements for any of these professional licenses,

- go to  
<https://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/Pages/Occupational-Licensure-Requirements-Snapshots.aspx>,
- scroll down to the table of Licensure Snapshots, and
- click on the relevant profession.

## Individuals Required to Complete Act 126 Training

Pennsylvania’s Act 126 of 2012 (“Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting Training”) amended the Public School Code of 1949 to mandate that all school entities and independent contractors of school entities provide their employees who have direct contact with children with a minimum of three hours of training every five years on child abuse and sexual misconduct recognition and reporting.

A three-hour course developed by the Professional Standards and Practices Commission covers the following topics:

- Recognition of the signs of sexual misconduct, as defined in Act 126.
- Reporting requirements for suspected sexual misconduct set forth in the Educator Discipline Act.
- Provisions of the Educator Discipline Act, including mandatory reporting requirements.
- Maintenance of Professional and Appropriate Relationships with Students.

Individuals who can show a certificate of completion from this course dated within the past three years may ask to be excused from completing some of the training modules prescribed in Section V of the Diocese's *Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth*.<sup>†</sup> The Bishop, Clergy in Charge, Senior Warden, or Supervisor may or may not grant or deny their request based on the nature of the role the individual will fill and other factors identified during the application and screening process.

## Other Requests for Waivers

Individuals working in other fields may also have received mandatory training in topics addressed by the Praesidium Academy modules on which the Diocese relies. Such individuals may therefore seek a waiver of one or more of the modules. However, the Bishop, Clergy in Charge, Senior Warden, or Supervisor who reviews their request must consider the legal status of the entity that has set the relevant standard and developed the training materials. Professional licensure and Act 126 training are mandated by State agencies that also prescribe the courses that can be taken to satisfy the requirements; the Diocese can therefore reasonably rely on the effectiveness of the training that is provided to individuals covered by those statutes. Petitions from other fields must be supported by compelling evidence of a similar degree of training excellence.

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