

# Safeguarding FAQs *for Clergy*

Clergy frequently have questions about the safeguarding process. Here are some clergy FAQ's:

## 1. What is my responsibility for Safeguarding?

**Set an example** by making sure your own Safeguarding certifications are current.

**Ensure that your church is actively engaged** in certifying employees, ministry leadership and other volunteers, per diocesan policies. Heads of Congregations are responsible for implementation of all policies.

**Communicate Safeguarding requirements** for lay leaders, vestry, staff, children's workers, and others *before* inviting them to a position.

**Insist on compliance.** The rules are there to protect your congregation...and to protect YOU!

**Secure a Safeguarding Records Administrator (SRA) and Safeguarding Coordinator** (if you haven't already).

**Support your Safeguarding Team** (SRA, coordinator, trainers, ministry leaders) with encouragement and gratitude. Ask them what kind of support they need from you.

**Celebrate those who are certified:** post certificates; put an SC! icon on name-badges; publicly acknowledge completions. Make Safeguarding part of your parish DNA...a safe place is a welcoming place.

## 2. Where do I find information about what I need to do and who needs to be certified?

The Safeguarding web pages have the information you need.

<https://www.epicenter.org/safeguarding/home/> The sidebar menu can help target your search. You'll find policies, resources, and more. If you can't find the answers you need, call (512-609-1876) or email **The Rev. Canon Lisa Hines** [lhines@epicenter.org](mailto:lhines@epicenter.org) who will answer your questions. If an in-person or zoom meeting would be helpful, that can be arranged.

## 3. There are leaders in my parish who refuse to go through the process. What should I do?

Explain that the purpose is to ensure safe environments *across the diocese*. The people (of all ages) who come through our doors need to know that the congregation is safe for them; that we have been diligent in selecting and training each and every leader and children's worker. Therefore, there can be no exceptions to the certification requirement.

It's much like driving. If we want to do it, we have to pass a driver's test, have a current driver's license, and carry insurance. We *all* must do this; there are no exceptions. That's how we keep our streets safe. Similarly, those who wish to serve as congregation leaders and children's workers in EDOT must be certified, to ensure safe environments. Those who refuse to be certified may not serve as leaders or children's workers.

As clergy in the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, we are called to work together to establish and nurture environments of health, safety, and mutual care. The diocese has provided extensive resources to support this holy work. May God bless you as you engage this work in your context!

These positions *require* certification:

**Safeguarding God's Children**

- All Clergy
- Heads of School and Organizations
- All Paid Employees
- Contracted Vendors and Charters
- Adult Volunteers for Children's Ministries and Schools
- SRA and Safeguarding Coordinator
- Others as noted in the [SGC Policies](#)

**Safeguarding God's People - Exploitation**

- All Clergy
- Heads of Schools and Organizations
- Lay Eucharistic Visitors
- Leaders and Facilitators of Ministries
- SRA and Safeguarding Coordinator
- Others as noted in the [SGP Policies](#)

**Safeguarding God's People in the Workplace – Harassment**

- All Diocesan Entity Employees