

## Safe Church MANDATORY REPORTING (MINISTRY AGENTS)

# Scenario 1: Historic Situation

### Information

You have known Lyn for numerous years and quietly built a pastoral relationship with her. She is in her 70's and a stalwart of your church.

You are catching up for a pastoral visit in a local coffee shop. Lyn shares that a recent sermon has really challenged her about her past. Lyn shares that she was sexually abused by her uncle when she was in her early teens. She has never told anyone until this moment, but her uncle's action really impacted her life. She never married, finding it incredibly difficult to be close to men. She gave her life to God as her only comforter.

You ask about her uncle, and she tells you he hasn't seen him for 40 years, but she still holds the bitterness within her. It still twists her soul. She wants to let the hurt and bitterness go. To embrace forgiveness, not for him, but for her own good.

You chat further, and pray and Lyn is so relieved and so grateful. You disclose to Lyn that you must pass this information on. Lyn does not want you to mention her name. You know her uncle is a well-known member of another church, now in his 80's.

### Resources

[C2.1.5.3 Mandatory Reporting for Ministry Agents](#)



[C2.1.5.8 Reporting and Referral Guide](#)



### Questions

- What is your course of action?
- What if Lyn said that she now wanted to speak up and tell others. What would you do?
- How would this situation be different if the uncle died 10 years beforehand?

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# Scenario 2: Domestic Violence

### Information

You've been working with Robert for a few months. He's a softly spoken member of your congregation who brings his three children along to worship. You quite admire his dedication as he comes, mostly, without his wife, Sue. You've found Sue a lot harder to get to know. She's rarely around and quite loud. She's had a tough life and says she doesn't have time for all this religion.

Robert has recently disclosed that Sue has been mistreating him. She controls their relationship, the money and yells at Robert when things aren't working out for her at work. You've been supporting Robert, and encouraging him to ring the domestic violence helpline, but as a male he feels terribly ashamed. He hasn't wanted you to report anything. "He just needs time" he says.

Today Robert says that last night Sue was yelling and lashing out again. The kids were caught in the crossfire and were very upset. It took Robert 3 hours to get them to sleep.

You pray with Robert, and again suggest he ring the men's helpline. You wonder how else you can help.

### Resources

[C2.1.5.3 Mandatory Reporting for Ministry Agents](#)



[C2.1.5.8 Reporting and Referral Guide](#)



### Questions

- What is your course of action?
- If the violence did not involve the children, what are your obligations under the law?

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