



Obligations of Lay Preachers and religious representatives

C/2.1.10.1

Purpose

Outlines the obligations required to comply with the [Safe Church Policy](#) and [Synod Wide Blue Card Policy](#).

Scope

Applies to all lay preachers and all persons meeting the threshold as a religious representative within the Queensland Synod. The *Uniting Church in Australia Regulation 2.2.3* defines the role of lay preacher.

Obligations

1. Mandatory Reporting

1.1. If you suspect neglect, abuse, sexual abuse, boundary violations or breaches of behaviour, report it following the [Mandatory Reporting process](#).

1.1.1. The maximum penalty for failing to report a reasonable suspicion of a child sexual offence is 3 years' imprisonment.

2. Blue cards

2.1. Follow the Synod Wide Blue Card Policy and have a valid linked blue card. (Refer to [Blue Card Requirements of Lay Preachers and lay workers](#)).

3. Governance

3.1. Every year, fill out and sign a [Statement of Personal Commitment](#) (SOPC). Not doing this yearly is against the Safe Church Policy and must be recorded as a breach. Fill out a Breach Report and record it. (Refer to the Breach Procedure)

4. Training

4.1. Follow the [Safe Church Training Procedure](#). The training can be completed online using the Synod learning platform, [edUCate](#). Please contact the Learning and Development Team at learning@ucaql.com.au or 07 3377 9734, for more information or to obtain this access.

4.1.1. Not following the Safe Church Training process is against the Safe Church Policy and must be recorded as a breach.

Information and support

Information and support can be obtained from the Safe Church Assurance and Support Officer on 07 3377 9833 or safechurch@ucaql.com.au

Revisions

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|-----------------------|---------------|--|----------------|--|---|
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| Version | Approval date | Approved by | Effective date | Policy owner | Policy contact |
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