



# Westminster Presbyterian Church

*Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known*

Pastors:

Don Lincoln

Jennie Clark

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## Attention All Westminster Volunteers

On December 31, 2014, a new child protection law went into effect in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The new laws expand the categories of people considered “mandated reporters” of child abuse and provide for direct reporting to PA Childline. Other change requirements are for background checks for both paid employees and volunteers working with children. As of July 1, 2015, **ALL VOLUNTEERS (age 18 and over)** who deal with children and youth of Westminster are required to get two background clearances and sign the residency waiver.

The clearances needed are:

1. Pennsylvania Criminal History report from the Pennsylvania State Police

<https://epatch.state.pa.us>

2. Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance Certification from the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

<https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>

3. Sign the attached residency waiver stating that you have lived in the state of PA for the past 10 years. Volunteers that have not lived in Pennsylvania for the past 10 years must submit to fingerprinting. Contact your supervisor for fingerprinting instructions.

### **OPTIONAL Mandated Reporting Course**

The PA Department of Human Services’ **Keep Kids Safe PA** website has complete details, including a Q&A about mandated reporting of suspected child abuse.

To help train mandatory reporters the link below is a FREE online three-hour course for mandatory reporters. Developed by University of Pittsburgh, the Department of Public Welfare, Office of Children, Youth and Families, the Pennsylvania Children and Youth Administrators, the course covers how to recognize and report suspected child abuse. Registration is required. **Participants can then print out a certificate signifying their completion of the course.**

[https://www.reportabusepa.pitt.edu/webapps/portal/execute/tabs/tabAction?tab\\_group\\_id= 2 1](https://www.reportabusepa.pitt.edu/webapps/portal/execute/tabs/tabAction?tab_group_id= 2 1)

**Westminster must retain copies of the required clearances for every volunteer. Clearances are valid for five years. Please bring the original documents to your supervisor so a copy can be made for your file.**

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Randel at the church, 610-399-3377 ext. 111