



**Religious Organizations  
Have Child Abuse Prevention  
Requirements in California.**

# **A Guide to Mandated Reporter Training for Religious Organizations**

 **Mandated Reporter  
TRAINING**



AB506 created mandated reporter training requirements for youth-serving organizations in California. That includes religious organizations that offer youth programs. This guide can help you understand your mandated reporter training requirements under the law.

## Youth Services Organizations Provide Services Or Activities To Minors

A youth service organization, also known as a youth-serving organization, provides services or activities for minors. Youth service organizations can be non-profit or for-profit businesses.

**Religious organizations often offer youth camps, youth groups, & other programs.**

- Clergy members or volunteers leading youth groups.
- Volunteers running children's classes within your religious organization.
- Providing childcare or daycare to children while their parents attend services.
- Volunteers working with children in the community.
- Hosting events for youth, such as storytime for toddlers or summer camps for children.
- Offering a private religious school program.



# AB506 Created Mandated Reporter Training Requirements for Youth-Serving Organizations in California

The employees and volunteers at youth-serving organizations often work closely with, or have supervision over, children under the age of 18. Prior to 2021, however, many youth service organizations didn't have a requirement to take abuse prevention training or to report suspected abuse to authorities.

Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez introduced California Assembly Bill 506 (AB506), which mandates abuse prevention measures for every administrator, employee, and full-time volunteer at a youth service organization.



**We've heard horrific stories of abuses against children that went unreported for decades. As parents, we should have peace of mind that any adult responsible for providing our children a safe environment is qualified and trained to catch incidents of abuse early on.**

Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez



**California Assembly Bill 506 (AB506) became law on September 16, 2021, and went into effect on January 1, 2022.**

# Understanding AB506: What is Required of Youth Services Organizations?



1. Administrators, employees, and regular volunteers are required to complete child abuse and neglect reporting training, also known as mandated reporter training.
2. Administrators, employees, and regular volunteers are required to undergo background checks.
3. Youth services organizations are required to develop and implement child abuse prevention policies and procedures, including protocols that ensure the reporting of suspected incidents of child abuse to entities outside of the organization.
4. Whenever possible, youth service organizations will require the presence of two mandated reporters whenever administrators, employees, or volunteers are in contact with or supervising children.



# AB506 Ties Compliance to Insurance Coverage

AB506 aims to institute new requirements for youth organizations and insurers to help prevent child abuse and neglect and lower the risk of related losses to insurers. As a result, the bill allows insurance carriers to tie liability insurance to AB506 compliance.

AB506 was sponsored by Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, who said:



**AB 506 will protect children & prevent massive insurance liability in youth organizations by requiring background checks & mandated reporter training for volunteers. We must do all we can to ensure these are safe places for our children.**

Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara



CA Business and Professions Code Division 8, Chapter 2.9: Youth Services Organizations, 18975 (d)

Before writing liability insurance for a youth service organization in this state, an insurer may request information demonstrating compliance with this section from the youth service organization as a part of the insurer's loss control program.

## Who are Mandated Reporters?

A mandated reporter is a person who is **required by law** to report suspected child abuse or neglect. Most states, including CA, identify mandated reporters by their profession. This list includes professionals who often come into contact with children, such as teachers, daycare workers, and medical professionals.

CA Penal Code Section 11165.7 identifies mandated reporters in California.

### Mandated reporters include:

**(6) An administrator of a public or private day camp.**

**(7) An administrator or employee of a public or private youth center, youth recreation program, or youth organization.**

**(8) An administrator, board member, or employee of an organization (public or private) whose duties require direct contact and supervision of children.**

## Mandated Reporter Requirements

Under AB506, administrators and employees of youth service organizations have the following requirements:

- Must take mandated reporter training.
- Must undergo a background check to identify and exclude any person with a history of child abuse.

## Volunteer Requirements

### What is a Regular Volunteer?

Under AB506, a “regular volunteer” is defined as an adult, aged 18 or older, who volunteers for 16 hours per month **or** 32 hours per year.

Under AB506, regular volunteers have the following requirements:

- Must take mandated reporter training.
- Must undergo a background check to identify and exclude any person with a history of child abuse.





## Abuse Prevention Policies

AB506 requires youth-serving organizations to develop and implement policies and procedures to prevent child abuse, including:

Policies to ensure reporting of suspected incidents of child abuse to persons or entities outside of the organization, including local law enforcement and county child welfare agencies.

## The Two Reporter Rule

AB506 mandated a “Two Reporter Rule,” which states that, to the greatest extent possible, the presence of at least two mandated reporters is required whenever administrators, employees, or volunteers are in contact with, or supervising, children.

The “Two Reporter Rule” does not apply if your organization provides one-to-one youth mentoring if you have adopted and implemented the above-mentioned abuse prevention policies and have adopted and implemented comprehensive screening and training of volunteers.



## AB506 Checklist

Complying with AB506 is critical for youth-serving organizations to help prevent child abuse, ensure reporting of suspected abuse, to screen out volunteers with histories of child abuse, and to keep your liability insurance coverage in place.

**The following checklist will help you stay organized as you make your AB506 compliance plan.**

- Policies and procedures: documented policies and procedures are in place regarding the organization's training and reporting requirements, background checks, and two-reporter rule.**
- Mandated reporters are identified.**
- Mandated reporters and regular volunteers receive mandated reporter training.**
- Reporting procedure is put into place.**
- Compliance reporting is provided to insurance carriers to protect liability coverage.**







## Mandated Reporter Training

AB506 states that its training requirement may be met by completing the online mandated reporter training provided by the Office of Child Abuse Prevention in the State Department of Social Services.

This training can be found at [mandatedreportertraining.com](https://mandatedreportertraining.com).

Mandated Reporter Training provides organization accounts that makes it easy for administrators to assign, track, and report on training completion. Your organization reports can be provided to your insurance carrier to demonstrate your AB506 training compliance. Start your mandated reporter training program now.

## Resources

- ➔ [CA Assembly Bill 506](#)
- ➔ [CA Business and Professions Code Division 8, Chapter 2.9: Youth Services Organizations, Section 18975](#)
- ➔ [CA Penal Code 11165.7 - Mandated Reporters](#)