

# PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN



As a result of the recent state laws passed in the wake of child-sex-abuse scandals, congregations all over the state have needed to adapt, expand, and/or revise their current child protection procedures to comply with the law and to ensure that we are providing a safe space for all of God's children. The new laws expand the definition of "mandatory reporters" to include all rostered leaders, paid church employees who work with children, and also volunteers over age 18 who work with children in activities and programs. For churches this means virtually ALL Sunday school teachers, nursery attendants, VBS volunteers, youth group leaders, etc.

VPC has updated our child protection procedures to include the following required reports from all employees and any volunteers who are in contact with children:

1. **PA Child Abuse History Clearance (CY-113)**
  - Cost is \$8\* (free for volunteers).
  - Application can be completed online at:  
<https://www.compass.state.pa.us/CWIS>
  
2. **PA State Police Criminal Record Check (SP4-164)**
  - Cost is \$8\* (free for volunteers).
  - Application can be completed online at  
<https://epatch.state.pa.us/>
  
3. **FBI Criminal History (Fingerprint) Reports** are required for ALL EMPLOYEES. Volunteers who have not lived in the state of PA for the past 10 consecutive years are also required to provide this report. Volunteers who have lived in PA for the past 10 years or more are only required to sign an affidavit witnessed by a church employee or officer. (*Affidavit available online or from the church office.*)
  - The cost of the FBI Report is \$25.75\*
  - Application can be completed online at:  
[https://www.pa.cogentid.com/index\\_dpwNew.htm](https://www.pa.cogentid.com/index_dpwNew.htm)

Return all required forms to the church secretary prior to your employment start date or volunteer activity.

For more information about the new Pennsylvania laws and requirements, you can visit:

[www.keepkidssafe.pa.gov](http://www.keepkidssafe.pa.gov)

\* fees subject to change