

Newtown Monthly Meeting

Child Safety Policy

To ensure the safety of the children of Newtown Meeting and compliance with the Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Law (Act 15 of 2015) current Pennsylvania law, Children's Religious Education Committee adheres to the following policies and procedures:

1. Any teen or adult wishing to work within the NMM CRE program must be active in the meeting and known to the meeting community for a minimum of six months. This includes First Day School (FDS) teachers, substitute FDS teachers, and babysitters.
2. All teachers, substitute teachers, and babysitters must obtain the following background clearances and training prior to serving in the CRE program and provide copies of completion for our files. Please use an updated, supported browser such as Edge, Chrome, or Firefox.
 - 1) [Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance](#)
 - 2) [Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Clearance](#)
 - 3) [Federal Bureau of Investigations \(FBI\) Criminal History Clearance](#). (Required only if you have not lived in Pennsylvania for the last 10 years)
 - 4) [Disclosure Statement for Volunteers](#) (only required of those **not** required to do a FBI check-see #3)
 - 5) [Mandated Reporter Training](#) This is a free 3 hour live virtual training program offered at 9am, 1pm or 6pm on various days throughout each month. [*Babysitters under 18 years of age are exempt from this training.*]

These certifications are required every 60 months.

3. For teachers, classroom assistants, and those who watch children in the nursery, the Children's Religious Education Committee will reimburse for the fee for the FBI Criminal History Clearance (\$22.60).
4. Per Pennsylvania Law, any volunteer age eighteen or older who has a good faith reason to suspect child abuse or neglect must immediately report the suspected abuse to child line: www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis or 1-800-932-0313. A record of this report of suspected abuse should be shared with the clerk of the meeting.
5. If a child under the care of a teenage babysitter confides that they have been a victim of any kind of abuse, the sitter will immediately contact the babysitting coordinator.
6. There will always be at least 2 babysitters during Meeting for Worship, unless a teacher led program is scheduled.
7. Children's Religious Education will annually review the Child Safety Policy and the clearance status of all volunteers each June.