



Presbytery of
Genesee Valley

QUIZ 2016
Sexual Ethics &
Boundaries Training

Please Complete & Retain for Yourself

1. Under New York State Social Service law, clergy are among those roles and professions designated as mandatory reporters of child abuse and maltreatment, including child sexual abuse.

True False

2. In 2009, the last year for which statistics are available, New York State Child Protective Services received how many reports of child abuse or maltreatment in the 6 counties – Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Wyoming – that are within the boundary of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley?

0 – 4,000 4,001 – 8,000 8,001 – 12,000

3. A church member asks his pastor to meet for lunch. He is anxious about discussing an important matter, stating, “I feel quite vulnerable,” and elicits the pastor’s promise of confidentiality. During their conversation, he admits to the pastor that he has sexually violated his daughter, a minor. Is this communication privileged – priest/penitent privilege – under New York State law (meaning that the pastor as clergy cannot be required legally to disclose the contents of the conversation)?

Yes No

4. Since 1989, there have been 5 formal disciplinary cases in the Presbytery of Genesee Valley against clergy for charges related to sexual misconduct. The proceedings – the work of an Investigating Committee, a trial convened by the PGV Permanent Judicial Commission, and/or appeals to the Synod PJC and General Assembly PJC – have cost PGV how much in 2015 dollars (i.e., adjusted for inflation)?

0 – 25,001 - 50,001 - 75,001 -
25,000 50,000 75,000 100,000+

5. Mel Olver is the attorney for the Presbytery of Genesee Valley. (In addition to his years of experience, he is a retired New York State Town Justice.) As part of his PGV duties, he will represent PGV clergy and sessions in cases involving allegations or claims of sexual misconduct.

True True* False
*limited to 2/yr.

6. In New York State, the legal age of consent to a sexual act is 17-years-old.

True False

7. In New York State, when a person calls to report child abuse, or communicate a reasonable concern or suspicion of child abuse, to an authorized agent (i.e., Child Protective Services), which of the following can be expected to occur?

Check all that apply

- A. The caller is asked to identify the minor who was harmed or is at risk.
- B. The caller is required to give her/his name and contact information.
- C. An investigation will commence within 5 business days.
- D. If there is no finding of abuse, the caller can be sued or prosecuted.

8. Under federal law, the individual accounts of church staff using church computers, including their email and access to the World Wide Web, belong to the individual users and their files are private.

True False

9. Does the session of a Presbyterian church have a legal right to limit the participation of a member or a congregant (person attends but is not a member) if the individual has been convicted of, or is arrested for, a sexual offense against a minor?

Yes No

10. In a disciplinary case involving the accusation of “sexual abuse of another person” (D010.0104c), the *Book of Order*, Rules of Discipline (D-10.0106) states that a presbytery Permanent Judicial Commission may place an accused minister on administrative leave prior to resolution of the case. However, the Presbytery of Genesee Valley’s *Policy on Automatic Administrative Leave in Cases of the Accusation of ‘Sexual Abuse of Another Person’* (12/02/08) requires the imposition of automatic administrative leave in all instances of a minister formally accused of “sexual abuse of another person.”

True False

11. Under the Presbytery’s Master Insurance Policy, is a participating church protected under the policy if it does not inform the carrier of an incident of sexual misconduct occurring in the context of the church’s mission or ministry?

Yes No

12. In 2013, Richard R. Hammar, a lawyer and CPA who is the editor of the authoritative *Church Law & Tax Report*, researched rulings by state appellate and federal judges pertaining to religious organizations that went to court. Which was the number 1 reason for religious organizations going to court in the period 2005-2011?

Local churches leaving a denomination

Sexual molestation of minors

Conflicts between clergy & local churches