

Before You Start

Checklist for Service Providers Reaching Out to Faith-Based Organizations Regarding Elder Abuse

- Learn about the faith-based organizations in your area.
 - Are there congregations and/or faith-based gatherings?
 - Faith leader associations?
 - Faith-based nonprofits?
 - A group of congregations?
 - Representing one faith?
 - More than one?
 - Comprising faith leaders, laity, or both?
- Learn about the congregations.
 - What do they call themselves?
 - When are the important holidays or seasons?
 - If there are sacred texts, what are they called?
 - Are there special food requirements?
 - On which day(s) do they gather as a community?
 - Do they have recognized leaders? If so, what are they called? Who makes decisions?
 - What are the basic tenets of the faith that might affect victims and survivors?
 - Are there denominational or geographical similarities to other congregations you work with?
- Talk to members of your staff or friends of your agency who can connect you with someone in the congregation. Start with these connections.
 - What is the best way to make an appointment?
 - Who is the best person to talk to?
 - Community leader?
 - Lay leader?
 - Administrative assistant?
 - Faith leader? Pastor, Priest, Rabbi, Imam, or other Faith Leader?
 - Religious Education Director?
 - Congregational president?
 - Parish nurse?
 - What are the congregation's current concerns and issues? Do they connect to your work?
- Gather resources.
 - Business card and agency brochure
 - "Where Faith and Safety Meet: Faith Communities Respond to Elder Abuse" Resource Packet
 - Symbolic gift? (agency t-shirt, mug, booklet, etc.?)

For more information, please visit www.interfaithpartners.org or www.ncall.us.

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