



604 Background Check Congregation Agreement

The Synod's compliance procedure is designed only to assist congregations in complying with Minnesota Statute §604 and not in any way to replace the traditional responsibilities of the congregation council and call committee regarding both interim ministers and regularly called pastors.

Call committees must bear in mind that the §604 is quite narrow: It requires only that some of the candidate's current and former employers (not acquaintances or bishops or even the candidates themselves) be contacted and that they be asked only about sexual misconduct (not other types of misconduct), and then only about sexual misconduct with counselees. Call committees should continue to inquire into the wide range of professional and personal qualities that bear upon whether a particular candidate can provide the pastoral leadership sought by a particular congregation.

Under the synod's compliance procedure, a congregation that is about to call an interim or regular pastor may ask the synod to assist it in conducting the necessary sexual misconduct background check.

The signature(s) below indicate that our congregation council agrees to utilize the assistance of the compliance administrator for the Southwestern Minnesota Synod to comply with the Minnesota Statute §604.

*This form requires digital signatures if using online form. If unable to attain, please print, sign, and email or mail to address listed below.

Name of congregation

Name of congregation

Congregation president's signature

Congregation president's signature

Please PRINT full name

Please PRINT full name

Phone number

Phone number

Home mailing address

Home mailing address

City, state, zip code

City, state, zip code

E-mail address

E-mail address

Return form to: Southwestern Minnesota Synod – PO Box 499 – Redwood Falls, MN 56283, or email to:
maggie.berggren@swmnelca.org