



## 604 Background Check Congregation Agreement

The ELCA synods' 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 §604 is, in some respects, quite narrow: It requires only that some (not all) of the candidates' 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 (not sexual misconduct generally). 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 synods' 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.

**(Please complete second section if parish consists of 2 congregations. For more congregations, please make additional copies of form.)**

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Name of congregation

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Name of congregation

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Congregation council president's signature

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Congregation council president's signature

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Please PRINT full name

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Please PRINT full name

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Phone number

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Phone number

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Home mailing address

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Home mailing address

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City, state, zip code

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City, state, zip code

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E-mail address

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E-mail address

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