

## Questions and Answers

- 1) QUESTION: The introduction to the online course prompts me for personal information such as my name, where I live, email address, etc. Would this result in providing the state of Illinois with a “list” of all congregation elders and some form of contact for them?

**ANSWER: No. An elder need not say he is one of Jehovah’s Witnesses or identify his congregation.**

- 2) QUESTION: The course prompts me to identify myself as an employee of a certain agency or organization. How should I respond to this without giving the wrong impression about being employed clergy of “Watchtower” or “Jehovah’s Witnesses”?

**ANSWER: We recommend that you identify yourself as a “religious volunteer” and reply “none” to the question about an employer.**

- 3) QUESTION: Should I send a copy of my “Certificate of Completion” to the branch office for its records since the course directs me to ‘give a written confirmation of completing the course to their supervising agency or employer’?

**ANSWER: No. Since elders are volunteers of their local congregation and not employees of any corporation used by Jehovah Witnesses, please keep your own record and comply with retaking the course every three years.**

- 4) QUESTION: Does this training program conflict with organizational guidance on handling instances/allegations of child abuse?

**ANSWER: No. The website acknowledges that legal guidance may be needed. Therefore, in harmony with the direction outlined in the *Shepherd* book, chapter 14, paragraph 7, please immediately contact the Legal Department for legal advice when you learn of an accusation of child abuse.**

- 5) QUESTION: Does this directive/law apply only to elders, or are ministerial servants or even regular pioneers included in the legal category of clergy or as “volunteer ministers”?

**ANSWER: The law currently applies to elders only.**