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## Shield the Vulnerable Overview

### TRAINING FOR A SAFE ENVIRONMENT



Shield the Vulnerable (STV), is a service of LawRoom that provides a suite of innovative, interactive, online training courses for students and adults. The courses train adults who interact with children, youths and elders how to recognize, report and prevent abuse. The student courses are age appropriate and teach students from the 4th to the 12th grade about personal safety and make smart life choices.

Since mandatory reporting laws differ from state to state, our child abuse course is versioned to comply with specific state reporting laws. Also, organizational Codes of Conduct differ, so we incorporate and test on the organization's codes to communicate specific expectations.

Shield the Vulnerable educates adults and young people about child abuse, predators, bullying, proper boundaries, healthy relationships, respect, the perils of cyberspace, elder abuse, life skills, and protects the most vulnerable members of society from maltreatment.

### ENGAGED MINDS SUPPORT SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

There is no doubt of the positive impact that interactive training brings to learning and recall. Our highly interactive training courses are peppered with activities and learning assessments, including real case studies, and multi-quizzes, making the subject matter evocative and memorable.

Learners receive real-time feedback throughout our courses to ensure they are on the right track and maximizing opportunities for skill building. In addition, training online is convenient. Courses are available from any computer linked to the Internet, and can be taken anytime 24/7. Other advantages include:

- **Consistency** – everyone trained is on the same page, with consistent quality
- **Easy Implementation** – quickly deploy and train entire workforce
- **Self-Paced** – trainees learn at their own pace, not restricted by class schedules
- **Learning Management System** – register trainees, check progress, create reports
- **Documentation** – retain records electronically and print certificates of completion

Visit [www.shieldthevulnerable.org](http://www.shieldthevulnerable.org) or call us at 800.652.9546 for more information about STV.



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## Adult Exploitation in Pastoral Relationships

Though sexual abuse of children by clergy dominates the news, a less-publicized problem facing all denominations is sexual exploitation of adults by clergy. A recent national study found that one in 33 women in congregations experienced sexual advances by their religious leaders.

Training church personnel how to recognize the subtle signs of sexual exploitation of adults is a critical step in protecting the integrity of all pastoral relationships.

This interactive course explains how to report suspected exploitation, and provides behavioral guidelines for preventing exploitation.

- Section I:** Recognize Sexual Exploitation of Adults
- Section II:** Report Suspected Sexual Exploitation of Adults
- Section III:** Duty to Report
- Section IV:** Standards of Conduct

**LENGTH: 30-45 minutes**



## Cyberspace: Risks and Solutions

Popular media has raised awareness of the dangers young people face on the Internet. Since most young people know more about computers and new technology than the adults around them, it can be difficult to monitor their Internet use. Young people are also using new technology and tools on a daily basis, such as social networking sites, blogs, email, chat rooms, and online gaming.

How can adults help young people learn to safely navigate the Internet and avoid its dangers? This interactive course uses real-world situations to illustrate how adults can guard young people from Internet dangers.

- Section I:** Cyberspace Risks & Solutions
- Section II:** Defining the Risks
- Section III:** Finding Solutions

**LENGTH: 45 minutes**



## Detecting Predators

Experts estimate that one out of every four girls and one out of every six boys will be sexually abused before they turn eighteen. Adults are the first line of defense against predators. Understanding how predators operate, the techniques they use, and how to respond is vital. Every adult in contact with children needs to be knowledgeable about sexual predators and how to train children for safety.

This interactive course engages adults, raising their awareness of predatory techniques and the signs to look for in protecting children from predators.

**Section I:** Identifying Predators

**Section II:** Grooming Behavior

**Section III:** Protect Against Predators

**LENGTH: 45-60 minutes**



## Eliminating Bullying

Bullying isn't new, but it is prevalent. In fact, more than 30% of youth in the U.S. experience bullying, either as a bully, target or both. The effect of this abuse on victims is often devastating and can lead to deadly violence. Many adults are concerned about whether children are safe at school and wonder how they can prevent bullying and its consequences. Bullying is about power. Understanding the dynamics of this abuse is the first step towards preventing it.

This interactive course covers the bully, the victim, and the bystander. The course prepares adults to recognize, address and prevent bullying.

**Section I:** The Dynamic Trio – Bully, Victim and Bystander

**Section II:** Types of Bullying

**Section III:** Breaking the Bullying Cycle

**Section IV:** Responding to Bullying

**Section V:** Standards of Conduct for Youth

**LENGTH: 60 minutes**



## Inquiry vs. Investigation

When adults suspect possible child abuse, they may delay or fail to report because they aren't positive, or they don't want to make things worse. Failing to report puts an abused child in jeopardy, and if the reporting party is a "mandated" reporter, that person can face penalties. State child abuse reporting laws set up a structure where reporters are responsible for "reasonable inquiry", not investigation. For this reason, it is important for any child abuse reporter to know the difference between appropriate inquiry and inappropriate investigation.

This interactive course provides adults with valuable guidelines for child abuse reporting.

- Section I:** A Shared Responsibility
- Section II:** Finding Out About Abuse
- Section III:** Talking About Abuse
- Section IV:** Making a Report

**LENGTH: 45-60 minutes**



## Prevent Elder Financial Abuse

Research indicates alarming rates of elder financial abuse. Between 2008 and 2010, the annual loss suffered by victims of elder financial abuse grew 12% to at least \$2.9 billion dollars. Unfortunately, the overwhelming majority of these crimes are not recognized, not reported, and not prosecuted.

This course focuses on financial abuse of vulnerable adults — mostly the elderly. It covers the scams and schemes perpetrated on the elderly to separate them from their life's savings and assets.

- Section I:** Elder Financial Abuse
- Section II:** Profile of Financial Abuser & Vulnerable Adult
- Section III:** Duty to Report Abuse
- Section IV:** How to Determine Reasonable Suspicion
- Section V:** How to Make a Report

**LENGTH: 45-60 minutes**



## Prevent Vulnerable Adult Abuse

According to AARP, the number of Americans 65 or older will double to 71 million by 2030. Every year, an estimated 2.1 million elderly are victims of physical, psychological, or other forms of abuse. Experts estimate that for every case reported, there may be five that are not, highlighting the urgent need to raise awareness of this maltreatment.

That's what this interactive course does. Plus, it teaches adults when and how to report abuse.

- Section I:** What is Elder Abuse /Financial Abuse?
- Section II:** The Vulnerable Profiles
- Section III:** How to Determine Reasonable Suspicion
- Section IV:** Recognizing the Signs of Abuse
- Section V:** Responding to and Reporting Elder Abuse

**LENGTH: 45-60 minutes**



## Protect Children: (State) Parts I & II

**Part I: Predators & Abuse:** Child abuse causes serious long-term consequences for its victims, including anti-social and self-destructive behaviors, and stress-related problems.

Part one is designed to raise awareness of child abuse with clear and easy-to-understand definitions of abuse, descriptions of common warning signs of abuse and child predator behavior, and things you can do to prevent abuse.

**Part II: Report Abuse:** In 2010, there were 695,000 confirmed cases of child abuse reported to U.S. authorities, and 85,440 made to the Canadian child welfare system in 2008. Unfortunately, it is estimated that this is just a small percentage of actual cases that go unreported.

Part two of the course provides information and interactive activities on the complete reporting process — forming a reasonable suspicion, what the reporting law requires, how to make a report of suspected child abuse, and what to expect after a report is made. Plus, it covers the specific state requirements of the child abuse reporting law.

**LENGTH: 90 minutes**





## Visiting & Care of Vulnerable Adults

This course addresses how to recognize and report the mistreatment of disabled and elderly adults who are unable to protect themselves. Many state laws require clergy and caregivers to report abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of vulnerable adults, and pastoral workers who visit the sick and homebound are in a unique position to help in this effort to detect and prevent mistreatment.

This interactive course engages pastoral workers in real-life scenarios they may encounter when visiting and caring for vulnerable adults to raise their awareness of the subtle warning signs of abuse and neglect.

- Section I:** Mistreatment of Vulnerable Adults
- Section II:** Recognize Abuse & Neglect
- Section III:** Recognize Financial Exploitation
- Section IV:** Report Mistreatment of Vulnerable Adults
- Section V:** Reaching Out To Vulnerable Adults

**LENGTH: 35-45 minutes**



## Volunteer Diversity Skills

The US population continues to grow increasingly diverse. When discrimination, harassment, resistance to change, and unconscious bias present obstacles to full participation in a diverse work environment (even for volunteers), an organization cannot achieve its mission.

This course covers communication and conflict resolution skills, and how to build a respectful environment in which everyone works together.

- Section I:** Valuing Diversity
- Section II:** Removing Barriers to Participation
- Section III:** Effective Communications
- Section IV:** Workplace Challenges

**LENGTH: 45 minutes**



### SECTION ENDS



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## Safety Smarts for Kids (Grade 4)

While it's critical that adults understand how to recognize, prevent, and report child abuse, it's equally important that young people (students) learn how to protect themselves. They are on the front lines. The dangers that students face, including abuse, neglect, bullying, and self harm must be communicated effectively, while at the same time promoting positive growth, balance and healthy self confidence.

This interactive course teaches young 4th graders to build and retain valuable life-skills to avoid potentially dangerous situations and to stay safe.

**Section I:** Staying Safe Around Adults

**Section II:** Staying Safe Around Kids

**Section III:** Avoiding Harm to Yourself

**LENGTH: 45 minutes**



## Block the Bully (Grade 5)

More than 30% of youth in the U.S. experience bullying either as a bully, target or both. That's 5.7 million kids, and this number doesn't take into account bystanders and others involved in bullying incidents. Bullying can have devastating effects and unpredictable outcomes. Youths need awareness and understanding of bullying to effectively deal with and respond to these situations.

This interactive course teaches students to identify, respond to, and prevent bullying.

**Section I:** Bullies

**Section II:** Targets

**Section III:** Sidekicks

**Section IV:** Bystanders

**Section V:** Defenders

**Section VI:** Valiants

**Block the Bully Video Game**

**LENGTH: 45 minutes**



## Be Safe, Stay Safe (Grade 6)

As kids get older, the subject matter for safety evolves, however, the importance of teaching them how to protect themselves remains constant. In addition to potential abuse, neglect and bullying, 6th graders are faced with increased peer pressure and opportunities for decision making. Kids need to learn the skills to stay safe, and at the same time maintain balance and healthy self confidence.

This interactive course encourages 6th graders to build and retain valuable life-skills to stay safe.

**Section I:** Staying Safe Around Adults

**Section II:** Staying Safe Around Kids

**Section III:** Avoiding Harm to Yourself

**LENGTH: 60 minutes**



## Bullying, Not Cool (Grade 7)

The phenomenon of bullying is finally getting the attention it deserves due to recent high profile cases in the media. Research shows that bullying reaches fever pitch during middle school. Students at this stage in their lives are simultaneously at their most vulnerable and most vicious. It is important for students to not only understand the mechanics of bullying but also to speak up and stand up against aggression.

This interactive course encourages students to be responsible for their own and other's welfare by knowing how to recognize, react to, and prevent bullying in their own schools.

**Section I:** Types of Bullying

**Section II:** The Players

**Section III:** What You Can Do

**LENGTH: 25 minutes**



## Digital Citizenship (Grade 8 – available Jan 2013)

The Internet has connected over two billion people around the world to unlimited sources of information and instant communication with each other. Electronic media use has increased dramatically and 95% of teens are now online on their computers and smart phones. Texting, tweeting, social media, apps, online videos, and blogs shape the everyday lives of these "digital natives." But, this digital world poses risks to young people from peers and strangers alike.

This interactive course teaches young people how to protect their privacy, stay safe online, and create a culture of good digital citizenship, using engaging content and interactive exercises to raise their awareness of potential harm from risky behaviors and misuse of the Internet.

LENGTH: 30 minutes



## Teen Safety (Grade 9)

The increased independence that teens experience naturally gives rise to added risks and dangers. In addition to abuse and abusive relationships, teens must learn how to appropriately handle dangerous situations, peer pressure, and decision making. Teens must be aware of how to protect themselves and maximize their opportunities for growth, while staying healthy and feeling good about themselves.

This interactive course teaches young people skills to stay safe, including recognizing and avoiding abusive relationships and unsafe situations.

LENGTH: 60 minutes



- Section I: Identifying Abusive Behavior
- Section II: Identifying Abusive Relationships
- Section III: Avoiding Dangerous Situations
- Section IV: Preventing Abuse
- Section V: Standards of Conduct for Youth

## Dating Abuse (Grade 10)

Dating abuse is a pattern of controlling behaviors that one partner uses to get power over the other. Unfortunately, the prevalence of this type of abuse is high, with one in four adolescents reporting verbal, physical, emotional or sexual abuse from a dating partner. Unhealthy relationship behaviors often start early and lead to a lifetime of abuse, highlighting the need to teach teens how to recognize, respond to and prevent abusive dating behaviors, and maintain healthy relationships.

This interactive course, including a compelling 9-minute video, teaches teens to identify and respond to situations of dating abuse experienced by themselves and their peers.

- Section I:** Preventing Dating Abuse
- Section II:** Recognizing Abusive Behaviors
- Section III:** Maintaining Healthy Relationships

**LENGTH: 60 minutes**



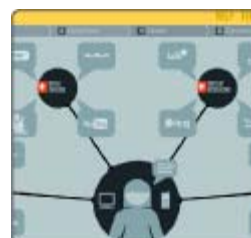
## CyberSafety (Grade 11)

The explosion of the Internet, e-communications and social media in our society has positively impacted our access to information and ability to stay connected with others. On the flip side, new dangers have resulted from their use, particularly for young users. To realize the benefits of cyberspace, young people must be aware of the potential dangers it poses, including cyberbullying, sexting, and misuse of social media sites such as MySpace, Facebook, and Twitter.

This interactive course raises teen awareness of the harm that can result from using the Internet and e-communications.

- Section I:** E-communications
- Section II:** Types of harm, cyberbullying, legal consequences
- Section III:** Strategies for Preventing Harm

**LENGTH: 25 minutes**





## You're Legal, What Now? (Grade 12)

This course prepares teens for the adult world by teaching them how to navigate through legal and practical issues that will help them make informed adult decisions. Students become the band manager of Elephant Fox and help guide its members into the real world.

By answering their questions and making important choices for the band, users learn about employment issues, bank accounts, credit cards, social media, and civic duties like voting, registering for selective service, paying income taxes, and jury duty.

Students will also encounter identity theft, illegal downloading, date rape drugs, privacy and passwords, Internet scams, marriage, and domestic abuse.

- Section I:** Count Your Vote
- Section II:** Making & Managing Money
- Section III:** Getting Mobile
- Section IV:** Relationships & Renting
- Section V:** Getting Signed
- Section VI:** Dark Days

**LENGTH: 90 minutes**



**END**