



**CLERGY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS
including Safeguarding Online and Public Records Checks
REQUIREMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS**

Each year, the Diocese of Massachusetts will hold a series of Clergy Professional Development Days. These gatherings will focus on needed updates and refreshers for Safe Church protocols and Title IV matters but will also include presentations geared toward supporting the practice of ordained ministry.

In order to maintain good standing as clergy canonically resident or licensed to officiate in the Diocese of Massachusetts, clergy are required to attend a Professional Development Day at least every third year. Clergy are encouraged to attend a Professional Development Day annually, though the requirement is once every three years.

The Diocese of Massachusetts will perform a national public records check on all canonically resident clergy and clergy licensed to officiate at the time of recertification for good standing. Clergy will sign a release for a public records check every three years.

CLERGY REQUIRED TO ATTEND:

- *All canonically resident clergy who exercise ordained ministry in the Diocese of Massachusetts*, whether in settled positions (rector, priest-in-charge, vicar, deacon, associate, assistant, curate, non-stipendiary associate) or temporary positions (interim, bridge, supply) are required every three years to attend a Professional Development Day, complete Safeguarding Online for clergy as required by this diocese, and authorize the Diocese of Massachusetts to conduct a public records check in order to maintain good standing.
- *All clergy licensed to officiate in the Diocese of Massachusetts who live within the diocese* (annual LTO) are required every three years to attend a Professional Development Day, complete Safeguarding Online for clergy as required by this diocese, and authorize the Diocese of Massachusetts to conduct a public records check in order for their license to be renewed.

CLERGY WHO MAY REQUEST EXEMPTIONS FROM ATTENDANCE:

- *Canonically resident clergy who live outside the Diocese of Massachusetts and who exercise ordained ministry exclusively in other dioceses or judicatories* may request an exemption from attending a Professional Development Day, but will maintain good standing provided that every three years they authorize the Diocese of Massachusetts to conduct a public records check and complete Safeguarding Online (or equivalent) training as required by the diocese or jurisdiction in which they are licensed. The Diocese of Massachusetts may require additional Safeguarding Online modules.
- *Clergy licensed to officiate in the Diocese of Massachusetts whose primary residence is outside the diocese* may request an exemption from attending a Professional Development Day,

provided that every three years they authorize the Diocese of Massachusetts to conduct a public records check and complete Safeguarding Online (or equivalent) training as required by the diocese or jurisdiction in which they are canonically resident. The Diocese of Massachusetts may require additional Safeguarding Online modules.

- ***Canonically resident clergy who have retired from all active service*** (i.e., the exercise of ordained ministry in any capacity), whether in this or any other diocese or judicatory, will maintain their good standing and may request an exemption from attending a Professional Development Day and from the triennial public records check. Safeguarding Online training will be required only if they exercise one or more of the ministries in a congregation or any ministry setting for which that training is required.

TO REQUEST AN EXEMPTION from attendance at a Clergy Professional Development Day, complete the online request form here:

https://edom.formstack.com/forms/clergy_exemption_and_records_check_authorization