



COURSE COORDINATORS:

Victor Vieth, Senior Director and Founder at Gundersen National Child Protection Training Center

Rabbi Naphtali Lavenda, MBA, Director, Online Rabbinic Programming, Yeshiva University Center for the Jewish Future

Sessions:

1. Intro

Rabbi Yaakov Glasser, David Mitzner Dean, Center for the Jewish Future, Yeshiva University, and Rabbi of the Young Israel of Passaic (5 min)

The Dynamics of Child Sexual Abuse

Victor Vieth (60 min)

Students receive an overview of the prevalence of various forms of child maltreatment. The workshop details dynamics often present in cases of child sexual abuse that impair the ability of a child to disclose maltreatment.

2. When Faith Hurts: The Impact of Child Abuse on Spirituality

Victor Vieth (60 min)

A growing body of research documents that many abused children suffer “spiritual injuries.” This occurs when a religious theme is used in the abuse of a child or simply because a child has spiritual questions about the abuse that have not been resolved. The workshop details the research on spiritual injuries and will give students a deeper understanding of the impact of child abuse on spirituality. Equally important, the workshop details the importance of spirituality to many survivors and notes that if children can cope spiritually, they often do better in coping physically and emotionally.

3. The Path to Healing: Addressing Emotional Injuries (30 min)

Victor Vieth

The workshop provides an overview of possible approaches for coordinating rabbinical and mental health counseling for children and adults impacted by child abuse.

Like a Footprint in Wet Cement: Understanding Adverse Childhood Experience Research (ACE) (30 min)

Victor Vieth

This workshop details a prestigious body of research that can assist faith leaders in recognizing and responding to instances of trauma. The workshop also includes a discussion of “polyvictimization” research—a body of research documenting that most children who are abused in one way are abused in multiple ways.

4. The Spiritual Care of Survivors in the Jewish Community

Dr. David Pelcovitz (30 min)

Response and Management of an Offender in the Jewish Community (30 min)

Gavriel Fagin, Ph.D, LCSW, SOTS, CCTP, CASACT, Director of Tikunim Counseling Services, PLLC

5. Developing and Implementing Child Protection Policies:

Victor Vieth (30 min)

This workshop provides an overview of research on the mind of sex offenders interested in attending religious services or otherwise participating in faith community activities. Armed with this research, the workshop includes an overview of ideal policies for deterring offenders before or after they join a congregation. The workshop also includes a conversation about managing convicted sex offenders seeking to join a congregation. Finally, the workshop includes a discussion about working with juvenile sex offenders.

How to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse in the Jewish Community (30 min)

Rabbi Yaakov Horowitz, Director of Project YES

With a focus on the synagogue and broader local Jewish community

6. How to Teach Personal Safety Training in Jewish Institutions (Shuls, Schools and Camps) (60 min)

Debbie Fox, Director, Magen Yeladim International Child Safety Institute

In this workshop, attendees will learn the components of teaching personal safety to their students and parent body, as well as strategies for implementing an effective personal safety program.

7. Physical abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect

Victor Vieth (60 min)

In this workshop, students will learn to recognize injuries suggestive of physical abuse, such as hand slaps and patterned injuries. Students will also receive practical tips on recognizing instances of neglect. There will be a brief discussion about the research documenting a correlation between animal abuse and child abuse. There will be a detailed discussion of emotional abuse with students learning five categories of emotional abuse and how to document evidence a child is being psychologically maltreated.

8. Why Bullying Matters When Discussing Child Abuse (30 min)

Dr. Rona Novick, Dean, Azrielli School of Jewish Education

Cyber-Challenges: Policies, Planning and Prevention-Online Safety for Communities of Faith

Alison Feigh, Director, Jacob Wetterling Resource Center (30 min)

This workshop covers current challenges facing faith communities as more and more young people engage in technology. Prevention strategies and replicable resources will be offered to help prevent cyberbullying, sexting and online exploitation of teens.

9. Top Halachic (Jewish Law) Questions Relating to Child Abuse

Rabbi Yaakov Neuburger, Rosh Yeshiva, RIETS, Yeshiva University and Rabbi, Congregation Beth Abraham, Bergenfield, NJ (30 min)

Moderated by Rabbi Yaakov Glasser

Understanding and Responding to Vicarious Trauma (30 min)

Dr. Norman Blumenthal, Director of the OHEL Miriam Center for Trauma, Bereavement and Crisis Response

How the Rabbi can prevent vicarious trauma when assisting victims of child abuse and why this is so important.

10. Understanding the Legal Issues Involved with Child Abuse and how it Affects You as Rabbi, Principal or Teacher (40 min)

Leora Joseph, Chief Deputy District Attorney at 18th Judicial District, Denver, CO

- Will describe what the rabbi's role is leading up to and during trial and the trial process itself so familiar with what is involved. (What actually is the legal process when an abuse case happens?) What are victims asked to do? Testify?
- When is reporting mandatory, order of who to contact when, etc.
- Defamation risks (ex. you want to tell the community a certain person is a threat, in what ways can it be done with risk for lawsuit)
- Liability (ex. What should the synagogue or school or even rabbi himself do in advance, before any case of abuse comes up, to limit liability?)

Creating Boundaries: Protecting Yourself While Helping Others (20 min)

Rabbi Yaakov Horowitz, Director of Project YES