



SAFETY DIRECTOR BULLETIN



PROTECTION & SAFETY TREATMENT OF MINORS BEST PRACTICES

In May of 2019, New Jersey extended the time victims of child sexual abuse could sue their abusers until the child turned 55 or within seven years of their realization that the abuse caused them harm. The MEL has created resources for leaders and employees of public agencies, including the [Protection and Safe Treatment of Minors Model Policy](#).

The model policy includes:

- Appendix C – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) (pages 24-29) and Appendix D – List of Qualified Vendors for Background Checks (page 30).
- A provision to reinforce that the form and content of the model policy may be modified so long as your legal counsel approves it. (Page 3).
- The specific background check requirements that are necessary for employees and volunteers working with children. (Pages 9-11).
- The vetting process for employees and volunteers includes background checks by third-party firms in addition to fingerprint checks. (Page 11).
- The background check process for minors. (Page 10).
- A section dealing with training for volunteer coaches. (Page 11).
- The required training programs for officials, department heads, supervisors, employees, and volunteers. (Pages 17-18).
- Information on “dual reporting” of suspected abuse. (Page 18).

NJ MEL recommends that you adopt the model policy if your legal counsel concurs.

In addition, all employees should be trained in the protection and safe treatment of minors. MSI offers two training options:

- [MSI LIVE: Protecting Children from Abuse in New Jersey Local Government Programs](#)
- [MSI NOW: Protecting Children from Abuse](#)

For additional resources and a list of Qualified Vendors for Background Checks, please visit [MSI Protection & Safe Treatment of Minors](#).

