Checklist for Service Providers Reaching Out to Faith-Based Organizations Regarding Elder Abuse

- Learn about the faith-based organizations in your area.
  - Are there congregations and/or faith-based gatherings?
  - Faith leader associations?
  - Faith-based nonprofits?
  - A group of congregations?
    - Representing one faith?
    - More than one?
    - Comprising faith leaders, laity, or both?

- Learn about the congregations.
  - What do they call themselves?
  - When are the important holidays or seasons?
  - If there are sacred texts, what are they called?
  - Are there special food requirements?
  - On which day(s) do they gather as a community?
  - Do they have recognized leaders? If so, what are they called? Who makes decisions?
  - What are the basic tenets of the faith that might affect victims and survivors?
  - Are there denominational or geographical similarities to other congregations you work with?

- Talk to members of your staff or friends of your agency who can connect you with someone in the congregation. Start with these connections.
  - What is the best way to make an appointment?
  - Who is the best person to talk to?
    - Community leader?
    - Lay leader?
    - Administrative assistant?
    - Faith leader? Pastor, Priest, Rabbi, Imam, or other faith leader?
    - Religious Education Director?
    - Congregational president?
    - Parish nurse?
  - What are the congregation’s current concerns and issues? Do they connect to your work?

- Gather resources.
  - Business card and agency brochure
  - “Where Faith and Safety Meet: Faith Communities Respond to Elder Abuse” Resource Packet
  - Symbolic gift? (agency t-shirt, mug, booklet, etc.)

For more information, please visit [www.interfaithpartners.org](http://www.interfaithpartners.org) or [www.ncall.us](http://www.ncall.us).