

Dear Religious Professional,

As a religious professional, I am sure you want to do whatever you can to protect the resources and assets of your organization. And, because of a unique law in the state of New York (other states like New Jersey have similar laws), your organization could be significantly exposed to the possibility of having a large claim or judgment levied against you. For that reason, our agency has provided this information to inform you of this law and the relatively simple steps that you can take to guard against such claims.

New York Labor Law 240 is aimed at protecting workers who come onto your premises to do work. This can be anything from a crew building a new building or addition, a roofer, painter or any other laborer. If they fall, regardless of the circumstances, your organization could be found liable, regardless if you did anything wrong. And the judgments against you can be staggering. For example, one plaintiff asked for \$10 million after a fall. Fortunately, the organization had all the correct paperwork in place and the total for legal fees was just over \$1,000. The plaintiff collected nothing.

There are two primary safeguards that can protect your organization from becoming involved in such litigation. First, there is a need to receive a certificate of insurance from the contractor doing the work, naming your organization as an additional insured. The other is to have a contract that has language that will protect you. By taking these two simple steps, you could be saving your religious organization from long and costly legal battles that stem from Labor Law 240.

To help protect you, our agency has made available on our website . If you will follow these guidelines, we believe you will be able to continue ministry without fear of having to defend yourself in a LL 240 lawsuit or claim.

We encourage you to educate yourself and implement these practices any time you have an outside contractor come onto your premises to do work. By doing so you will be helping preserve the resources that have been entrusted to your care as a leader of your organization.

Please feel free to contact me with further questions or concerns that you may have about this or other safety, security and liability issues you may have. We may be reached at 1-888-829-6505, choose voice mail option:

0- for Stan Pekala

1- for Joe Pekala

Sincerely,
J. Pekala & Associates, Inc.