

# Conscientious Objection: Is This for You? Discerning a Claim and Documenting It with Selective Service

by Curt Torell, Ph.D.

**This book may be ordered at Amazon.com for \$15. Click on the book for the link.**

With no draft and a Selective Service registration system linked automatically to getting most state drivers' licenses, the idea of military service generally and conscientious objection in particular is simply "out of sight and out of mind." Yet, Selective Service registration for men turning 18 (and possibly women in the future) is still required, and it is the precursor to a draft.

## Conscientious Objection: Is This for You?

Discerning a Claim and Documenting It  
with Selective Service



Teacher's Resource Guide

Curt Torell, Ph.D.  
A Quaker House Publication

This curriculum explains Selective Service, its registration and methods; defines conscientious objection as currently prescribed by law and judicial rulings; provides a range of exercises and activities to prompt individual soul-searching and group discussion; and lists procedures on how to document a CO claim with an emphasis on writing a "CO Letter." The curriculum is comprehensive and extensive. It blends instructive and experiential formats with lesson plans, handouts, reference materials, activities, worksheets, and more. While individuals can use this, the curriculum is designed primarily for teaching in groups, either as teens, adults, or a blend of both. And lastly, the curriculum can have a lasting impact and be part of a lifelong training in peace. Many of the CO letter writers

over the last 15 years recognized the influence this experience had on their lives and in the formulation of a commitment to non-violence and peace.

This Teacher's Resource Guide accompanies a downloadable PowerPoint slide presentation and two videos available at [www.quakerhouse.org](http://www.quakerhouse.org). This is peace training that changes lives.

The author, Curt Torell, is an educator, counselor, and organizational development consultant, with a Master of Divinity and a Ph.D. in psychoeducational processes. He is approaching his tenth year serving at Quaker House as board member and treasurer. His interest in conscientious objection started while attending seminary studying under Prentice Pemberton and Arlo Tatum, from CCCO (Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors) and where he worked in a local draft counseling office. The topic was rekindled when his own son had to register for Selective Service, and conscientious objection had become a moot point. With the support of Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, NC, these efforts to promote conscientious objection have evolved and now have taken on the form of this Quaker House special publication.

Please contact Quaker House at [qpr@quaker.org](mailto:qpr@quaker.org) or 910-323-3912 for any questions or assistance.