



Honor Thy Children

Archdiocese of Louisville continuing education for the awareness and prevention of child abuse

WHY SAFE ENVIRONMENT?

Archdiocese of Louisville

August 2024

If you need support or someone to talk to:

- ☺ Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky or Indiana: 800.CHILDREN/ 800.422.4453 www.pcaky.org www.pcaain.org
- ☺ Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline 800.4.A.CHILD 800.422.4453 www.childhelp.org

Are You Safe Environment Compliant?

Are you working regularly with children?

If so you must have attended an Archdiocese of Louisville Safe Environment Training.

Has it been 5 years since your initial in person training? You must complete your 5 year refresher training

You must also have a satisfactory background check not older than 5 years.

See your Safe Environment Coordinator today to verify your compliance!

Honor Thy Children

No child or adult should ever experience abuse by anyone. We all have the right to be treated with dignity and to expect our church to reflect the goodness of God in all its dealings.

The beginning of a new school year marks a significant time in our schools and parishes with many activities involving children begin to ramp up. It's important to remember why we practice Safe Environment.

On June 14, 2002, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. The Charter addresses the Church's commitment to deal pastorally and effectively with cases of sexual abuse of minors by priests, deacons, and Church personnel (i.e., employees and volunteers). In addition, the Charter calls for the creation of safe environment programs that will help to create communities where children and adults will be protected from being the objects of sexual abuse and exploitation.

The Archdiocese of Louisville is committed to

ensuring that children and youth who worship, study, or participate in church-sponsored activities can do so in the safest and most secure setting possible. To fulfill this commitment, all employees or volunteers who have contact with

In addition to the subject matter discussed, members will be provided the booklet "Restoring Trust: The Sexual Abuse Policies of the Archdiocese of Louisville" that summarizes

PARTICIPANTS WILL....

- Learn how to identify signs of child sexual abuse
- Understand the dynamics of child sexual abuse, including how children are groomed and how they may attempt to reveal their experience
- How to take action in response to child sexual abuse, including obligation to report and caring for the abused child
- Becoming familiar with new archdiocesan policies and Code of Conduct regarding work with children

children or youth (18 and under) for ANY length of time are required to participate in one of the 2-hour Safe Environment Training Workshops and complete an Archdiocese of Louisville issued background check. Additionally members are required to complete a refresher training either online or at any scheduled in-person training every five years while also updating their background check.

procedures related to the sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults by Church personnel and adult sexual misconduct involving Church personnel. This publication introduces the initiatives that the Archdiocese of Louisville is putting in place to ensure compliance with these policies and the basic elements of a safe environment program. It

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also provides victims with information about how to contact the Archdiocese of Louisville about sexual abuse. We must heed God's call to care for the most vulnerable among us and to continue our efforts toward wholeness and health in dealing with sexual abuse. Should you have any

questions regarding the Archdiocese of Louisville's Safe Environment Program, feel free to contact Scott Fitzgerald, Coordinator of Safe Environment Services (sfitzgerald@archlou.org) or Victim Assistance Coordinator Martine Siegel (msiegel@archlou.org)

COMPLIANCE MEANS

IN-PERSON TRAINING

5 YEAR REFRESHER

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE ISSUED BACKGROUND CHECK (not older than 5 years)

Over 1,130 employees & volunteers received their initial in-person training in August alone!



250+

Well over 250 were in attendance at an August 6th training at St. Gabriel

Safe Environment Coordinator

Every parish and school is required to have a Safe Environment Coordinator. This person can:

- Ensure you're up-to-date compliant
- Offer instructions for getting compliant
- More importantly, parents should be asking if their child's coach, teacher, advisor, etc. is in-fact Safe Environment compliant.
- In addition to having a designated Safe Environment Coordinator, each parish/school is required to maintain a local database with the following information for those working with children:
 - Date of in-person Safe Environment Training
 - Date of refresher (if applicable)
 - Date of most recent background check



CONTACT SCOTT FITZGERALD (sfitzgerald@archlou.org) if you need to locate your coordinator

UPCOMING TRAININGS

9.7.24
St. Peter the Apostle
(SPANISH SPEAKING ONLY)

9.9.24
St. Margaret Mary

9.10.24
St. Aloysius-Pewee Valley

9.18.24
St. Dominic

10.7.24
St. Athanasius

10.21.24
St. Raphael

10.28.24
Flaget

11.5.24
St. Margaret Mary

The fall training schedule is set with multiple dates and present a great opportunity for you to check that box even if you're not immediately serving your parish or school.

It is strongly advised that you not wait to attend a scheduled in person training if required to do so as trainings are subject to cancellation or postponement due to inclement weather.

Be sure to bookmark www.archlou.org/safe for the latest status or changes in any training



ADULT/CHILD INTERACTION (A GUIDE)

Have you ever seen an adult interacting with a child in such a way that made you uncomfortable with what you observed? It is human nature to minimize or doubt these

suspicious feelings and opt to believe that you are overreacting. These are "uh-oh" feelings and they should not be ignored. Below offers warning signs that encourage further



"Uh-Oh!"

- Refuses to let a child set any of his or her limits.
- Insists on hugging, touching, kissing, tickling, wrestling with, or holding a child even when the child does not want this affection.
- Is overly interested in the sexuality of a particular child or teen (e.g., talks repeatedly about the child's developing body or interferes with normal teen dating).
- Manages to get time alone or insists on time alone with a child with no interruptions.
- Spends most of his/her spare time with children and has little interest in spending time with someone his or her age.
- Regularly offers to babysit many different children for free or takes children on overnight outings alone.
- Buys a child expensive gifts or gives money for no apparent reason.
- Frequently walks in on children/teens in the bathroom.
- Allows children or teens to consistently get away with inappropriate behaviors.

All adults who have any reason to suspect child abuse are legally required to contact Child Protective Services (CPS) and make a report. This is a mandatory reporting law that obligates all adults to make a report within 24 hours of learning

Persons acting upon reasonable cause in the reporting of known or suspected adult/child abuse, neglect, or exploitation are immune from civil and criminal liability. This immunity exists with respect to the reporting, the investigation, and any judicial proceedings resulting from the report [KRS 209.050, KRS 620.050(1)].

Should you have any questions regarding reporting, feel free to contact Archdiocese of Louisville, Victim Assistance Coordinator, Martine Siegel at 502.636.1044 or msiegel@archlou.org

What is Child Sexual Abuse?

Child abuse, including child sexual abuse that has always been a constant in our society. Year after year child abuse grows and child sexual abuse is a significant aspect of this increase.

Child abuse is widespread. It cuts across all cultures, religions, and socioeconomic groups. It is estimated that approximately one in four girls and one in six boys are sexually abused by the time they are 18 years of age. Many people are well into adulthood before something triggers in them a need to reveal childhood sexual abuse.

Because childhood sexual abuse is traumatic, many will suppress these memories out of pain and survival, only to recall later what happened. This is a common scenario in post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Many, out of shame, will unfortunately never report the abuse.

It is estimated that only 10% of victims report their abuse, which is a fraction of the sexual abuse that occurs.



CHFS

KENTUCKY

Cabinet for Health and
Family Services

1.877.KYSAFE-1

**Archdiocese of Louisville
Office of Safe Environment**

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No child or adult should ever experience abuse by anyone, especially a church minister. We all have the right to be treated with dignity and to expect our church to reflect the goodness of God in all of its dealings.

We hope that this information is helpful to all in our communities who are working to prevent and respond to childhood sexual abuse. Please let us know if you need further assistance or information by calling or emailing our victim assistance coordinator, Ms. Martine Siegel, at 502/636-1044; victimassistance@archlou.org

We must heed God's call to care for the most vulnerable among us and to continue our efforts toward wholeness and health in dealing with sexual abuse.

BEST PRACTICES

Because of the many programs and services parishes, schools, and other Church organizations sponsor, the Catholic Church is a major youth-serving organization in our community. As such, we must model effective safeguards and proactive initiatives in our safe environment programming. The below guidelines are just a sample of best

practices while ministering to youth and is meant to assist employees and volunteers to employ good sense in their ministries. These policies relate to ministry or employment-related circumstances and should be understood in that context. Obvious exceptions exist for employees and volunteers with families.

Avoid being alone with a minor in a residence, rectory, sleeping facility, locker room, rest room, dressing facility, or other closed rooms.

Avoid driving alone in a vehicle with a young person.

Ensure that all activities (extracurricular, catechetical, youth ministry, scouting, athletics, etc.) for which you are responsible have been approved in advance by the appropriate administrator.

Release young people only to parents or guardians, unless the parent or guardian has provided permission allowing release to another adult.

Never participate in chat rooms or video chats with minors unless they have been created for a particular ministry or employment-related circumstance. See the social media guidelines for the Archdiocese of Louisville for more detailed information about the use of social media.

These are only a sample. Should you have any questions, please reach out to the Office of Safe Environment (502.636.1044)

