



Honor Thy Children

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

WHAT ABOUT CAREGIVER SUPPORT WHEN IT COMES TO CHILD ABUSE?

By now the majority of those working with children understand they have a legal obligation to report any suspected child abuse in the state of Kentucky. But what happens to the person who reported the abuse? Supporting family members and caregivers after a report is made is vital in the reporting process. Offer support to the caregivers (parent/guardians) of the abused child. The caregiver is probably hearing these allegations for the first time and will likely be very distressed. Caregivers will

feel a great deal of guilt, anger, confusion, pain, and betrayal. Inform them as to what you know and have done. Listen to their fears



and concerns and assist them by providing the names of community resources.

If one of the caregivers is the one alleged to have abused the child, he or she will be defensive and

angry. Do not confront the alleged caregiver about the abuse. Allow law enforcement personnel and investigators to handle this. Your responsibility is to ensure the safety of the child.

If you know anyone who is struggling after reporting or someone who is feeling anxiety over reporting abuse please contact the Archdiocese of Louisville's Victim Assistance Coordinator Martine Siegel at 502.636.1044 or email at msiegel@archlou.org.

Archdiocese of Louisville

July 2021

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

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING



A big thank you to Incarnation for hosting a training this month. Remember, if you're working regularly with children you must have completed the Archdiocese of Louisville's Safe Environment Training and have a background check not older than 5 years.

Visit www.archlou.org/safe for an up to date list of trainings.

Are You Safe Environment Compliant?

Are you working regularly with children?

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

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

See your Safe Environment Coordinator today to verify your compliance!

TALKING ABOUT SEXUAL ABUSE

Talking to your child is an important step in preventing child sexual abuse. It not only provides them with needed information, but also promotes healthy development, increases self-esteem, and fosters a positive relationship between you and your child.

1. Talk to your child about their body. Teach your child the correct names for body parts, which parts of their bodies are considered "private," and that other people should not touch or see these parts of their bodies, except when it is appropriate (such as a parent helping with hygiene or at a doctor's appointment).
2. Talk to your child about boundaries. Teach your child that their body is their own and that they have a right to say "NO" when they don't want to be touched. Explain to your child that it is not okay for others to touch your child's private parts or for someone to ask your child to touch their private parts. Do not force your child to hug or kiss family members or friends.
3. Talk to your child about what to do. Explain that sometimes, people who abuse children might be people they trust, such as family members, friends, or even older children. Teach your child to say "NO," go to a safe place, and tell a trusted adult if something happens.
4. Talk to your child about keeping secrets. People who abuse children often ask them to keep secrets. Teach your child that they should NEVER keep secrets from their parents or caregivers.
5. Talk to your child about disclosing. Let your child know that they should always tell you if something happens that makes them uncomfortable. Instruct your child to tell you immediately if anyone tries to touch their private parts or engage in any inappropriate activity with them.
6. Begin having these conversations with children at a very young age. Even very young children can be abused, so starting these conversations early is important. Be sure to use terms that are appropriate for your child's level of development.
7. Encourage open communication with your child. Speak to your child in a way that is warm, open, and supportive. Important conversations like these should take place in the context of a supportive, trusting relationship.



UPCOMING TRAININGS

There are plenty of training opportunities coming up please see below.

No one under 16 will be admitted to the training. This includes infants.

If you think you will be working regularly with children please make plans to attend a training at your earliest opportunity.

You don't want to miss out on an opportunity to serve because you haven't completed the Safe Environment Training Course.

8.2.21
St. Gabriel

8.3.21
St. Albert

8.11.21 (5:00 PM)
Holy Trinity-Louisville

8.17.21
St. James (Elizabethtown)

8.19.21
St. Rita
(SPANISH SPEAKING ONLY)

8.23.21
St. Gregory (Cox's Creek)

8.26.21
St. Augustine (Lebanon)

9.7.21
St. Nicholas Academy

9.13.21
St. Dominic

9.21.21
Incarnation

9.28.21
St. Albert

10.4.21
St. Gabriel

10.14.21
Incarnation

*Be sure to bookmark
www.archlou.org/safe for updates
and/or cancellations*

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL - NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN

United States federal law defines child pornography as any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving a minor (a person less than 18 years old). Outside of the legal system, NCMEC chooses to refer to these images as **Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)** to most accurately reflect what is depicted - the sexual abuse and exploitation of children. Not only do these images and videos document victims' exploitation and abuse, but when these files are shared across the internet, child victims suffer re-victimization each time the image of their sexual abuse is viewed. In a recent survey led by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, 67% of CSAM survivors said the distribution of their images impacts them differently than the hands-on abuse they suffered because the distribution never ends and the images are permanent.

It's important to remember CSAM consists of much more than just images and video files. While CSAM is seen and transmitted on computers and through other technology, these images and videos depict actual crimes being committed against children. The human element, children at risk,

must always be considered when talking about this offense that is based in a high-tech world. The disturbing reality is that the internet platforms we use every day to connect with each other and share information, including social media, online gaming, and e-mail, are now being used to disseminate and collect CSAM. CSAM can be found in virtually any online realm.

Who are the victims? While there is limited research regarding victims of child sexual abuse material, it is a growing field of research and study to better understand the child victims and the offenders.

In March 2018, two studies on this topic were released. The first study is Production and Active Trading of Child Sexual Exploitation Images Depicting Identified Victims, which is based on data collected by NCMEC's Child Victim Identification Program through 2014. The second study is Towards a Global Indicator on Unidentified Victims in Child Sexual Exploitation Material, which is based on data in Interpol's global system. Below are key findings from these two studies:

- ✓ Girls appear in the overwhelming majority of CSAM.
- ✓ Prepubescent children are at the greatest risk to be depicted in CSAM.
- ✓ When boys are victimized, they are much more likely than girls to be subjected to very explicit or egregious abuse.
- ✓ On average boys depicted in CSAM are younger than girls and more likely to have not yet reached puberty.
- ✓ 78% of reports regarding online enticement involved girls and 15% involved boys (in 8% of reports, the gender of the child could not be determined).

82 million reports have been received by the NCMEC tip line.

Number of images reviewed **+322m**

Victims identified by law enforcement **+19,100**

MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

As we get ready to flip the calendar to August, this is what we like to refer (at times) as "silly season".

While our world remains an ever changing place with COVID concerns, etc. opportunities to work with youth are increasing.

Be sure you don't overlook your Safe Environment Compliance.

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.

In an effort to fulfill this commitment, all employees or volunteers who have contact with children or youth (18 and under) for ANY length of time are required to attend a Safe Environment Training.

If you have not satisfied this requirement and will be working with youth, you must attend an upcoming training to be in compliance.

Parishes and schools within the Archdiocese of Louisville are subject to audit by the USCCB to ensure compliance.

If you have questions regarding compliance, please reach out to your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator.

If you don't know who that is or have questions on compliance or safe environment in general feel free to contact:

Scott Fitzgerald
Archdiocese of Louisville
Coordinator of
Safe Environment Services
sfitzgerald@archlou.org
502.471.2132

**Archdiocese of Louisville
Office of Safe Environment**

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Maloney Center
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Louisville, KY 40220

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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 or the Pastoral Center at 502/585-3291.

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.

A SURVIVOR'S STORY: NELSON'S STORY

CREDIT RAINN.ORG

Nelson Hincapie is a husband, father, Colombian-American, and president and CEO of the Voices For Children Foundation. He is also a survivor of child sexual abuse. Nelson experienced abuse by a trusted teacher starting when he was 12 years old. "When I look back on the abuse now, it's obvious that I wasn't the only kid he groomed and abused." The teacher who abused Nelson first groomed him through gaining his trust, establishing shared secrets, and crossing boundaries. "He gained my trust by being really nice. He was the cool teacher, he let me drive his car when I was 12, but he told me that I couldn't tell anyone because I was too young to drive." Nelson didn't have the resources or support to heal after experiencing the abuse, and turned to unhealthy coping mechanisms, including drug use. When he was 24, Nelson entered a drug rehabilitation facility and disclosed for the first time about the abuse to his doctor there.

"He was great. He didn't lecture me about how much pain I'd caused my loved ones with my addiction or what I needed to change, he just asked the right questions and then listened." Nelson, like many male survivors of sexual abuse, has felt that the abuse was a source of shame and confusion. "I don't think it's talked about at all. I think that for heterosexual men to be abused in their childhood by adult males it is a source of great shame and deep wounds."

"When you're a kid, it's confusing to have a biological response of pleasure to an outside stimulus. It was important to understand that feeling pleasure did not reflect my sexual identity." As Nelson started to recover from addiction and heal from the abuse, he turned to his spiritual life for support, which has been a profound source of

comfort and strength. Nelson has found healing in the caring, compassionate people who have supported him in his journey, such as his wife and children, his spiritual director (a priest), and his therapist.



"For me, healing came from finding silence in the midst of chaos. When the noise comes from within, there can be no peace. We need to quiet the noise within to be able to be at peace throughout." In 2019, Nelson reached a point in his healing where he felt ready to report the abuse. He contacted the police department and

the school system where the abuse occurred, but was not able to find justice because he was outside the timeframe for the statute of limitations for the crime. Nelson and his wife have four children who he hopes will never experience anything like what he went through. "In my relationship with my own children, it's about being honest and transparent about my own journey. It's about sharing my wounds with them and letting them be part of the healing process. It's making sure I stay close to them and know what's going on in their lives. There are definitely red flags, we should teach our kids that if they feel uncomfortable around some people, they should trust their instinct."

If you would like to talk with someone reach out to
Martine Siegel
Archdiocese of Louisville
Victim Assistance Coordinator
and she'll be happy to refer you to a professional willing to talk with you.
502.636.1044 or via email
msiegel@archlou.org