



Honor Thy Children

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

SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION. SO IS AN INCREASED AWARENESS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Archdiocese of
Louisville

August 2021

School is back in session and for the most part looks dramatically different than it did a year ago.

While kids were at home signs of abuse could go unknown. Now that kids are back in the classroom, school staff, coaches,

volunteers and other parents should reacclimate themselves with signs of abuse. (See page 3) Remember, Kentucky is a mandatory reporting state. Meaning, all adults who

have any reason to suspect child abuse are legally required to contact Child Protective Services (CPS)



BACK TO SCHOOL

and make a report. The law mandates all adults make a report within 24 hours of learning about possible abuse.

Below you will find helpful information covered at any

of the "Honor Thy Children" trainings when it comes to reporting abuse. Should you have any questions regarding reporting abuse or unsure about what to do should you suspect abuse, please contact the Archdiocese of Louisville's Victim Assistance Coordinator Martine Siegel at 502.636.1044 or email at msiegel@archlou.org.

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

OBLIGATION TO REPORT

- It is better to err on the side of over-reporting than under-reporting.
- The Protection Acts provide that privileged relationships are not grounds for excluding evidence except in two situations. Neither psychiatrist-patient privilege nor the husband-wife privilege shall be grounds for excluding evidence regarding abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Only lawyer-client privilege and clergy-penitent privilege are excluded [KRS 209.060, KRS 620.050(2)].
- 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)].
- The source of a report of abuse, neglect or exploitation is kept confidential unless it is ordered released by a court order [KRS 209.140].
- The report to CPS should include the following information, if known:
 - *Name and address of the child, or of any person responsible for the child's care.
 - *Nature and extent of the suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation, including any evidence of previous abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
 - *Identity of the perpetrator.
 - *Name and address of the reporter (optional).
 - *Where the child can be found and any information you have about the location of the suspected abuser.

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!

KAITLYN'S STORY

CREDIT RAINN.ORG

Kaitlyn Urenda-Culpepper is a mother, a high school coach, a swimmer, and a survivor of child sexual abuse.

Kaitlyn was 14 years old when she was sexually assaulted by an employee at her high school who also happened to be a gymnastics coach. During the time of the abuse, Kaitlyn became pregnant by her perpetrator. She later disclosed this to her school officials, after her graduation, and he was fired. The perpetrator was then re-hired at her school even though the school district authorities were aware that he had sexually abused her.

Kaitlyn first disclosed the abuse to her counselor. "I felt very comfortable talking with her. She prepared me on how to share the abuse with my mom and explained what grooming was and looked like. She helped me realize I was a victim of grooming. I then went

home and told my mom, and she was supportive. It was sad and I could tell my mom was distraught." Kaitlyn mentioned that her mother was "trying to process it herself" during the time. Although it was difficult, Kaitlyn and her family were thankful that they had Kaitlyn's daughter in this world. Now a youth coach herself, Kaitlyn is concerned about potential predators' access to young people. She notes that she has seen local news stories over the past six years about a coach assaulting a student.

One, they are typically younger. You communicate with your athletes more and spend more time with them. You have more things in common. You spend more time with your coaches than with your teachers."

She's pleased to see more schools and youth-serving organizations making safety a top priority. "I am a swim coach at a local private high school where they run

background checks on new incoming teachers and coaches that are in place to keep children safe. Furthermore, there are rules regarding communication with my athletes. You cannot follow students on social media. You can't text a child without a parent in the chat or another coach. You can never give a child a ride home. There are a lot of rules, and they are in place to protect yourself as a coach and to protect the athlete. If there are no rules, things will get broken."

In Texas, sex education is limited, which is why Kaitlyn advocates at the local, state, and national level.

"We need to teach and talk about consent and grooming. Because I was so unaware of what that meant, it took so long to realize and process what actually happened to me."

Kaitlyn is speaking out now but was not comfortable coming forward initially. She noted that "it was when

Aly Raisman, the American gymnast, was giving her testimony that I realized I needed to tell my story too. It needs to be heard far and wide."

Remember, she says, that "shame is not yours to carry. It's theirs.



"The process of obtaining the child's trust takes time and manipulation, takes patience. You slowly confuse the child and when they are most vulnerable, the abuse gradually begins."

- A quote from a child molester used in the Honor Thy Children Safe Environment Workshop

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.

9.7.21

St. Nicholas Academy

9.9.21

Holy Spirit (Louisville)

9.13.21

St. Dominic

9.14.21

St. Patrick

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



RECOGNIZING CHILD ABUSE: SIGNS TO LOOK FOR

When it comes to child sexual abuse the signs can come in the form of behavior changes or physical changes.

When children are experiencing stressors such as divorce or death of a loved one, expect a change in their behavior. Children exhibit

similar behavioral changes when they are being sexually abused. No one behavioral change by itself indicates a child is being sexually abused, however, a combination of the below symptoms should alert adults to the possibility of sexual abuse.

- Nightmares, trouble sleeping, fear of the dark, or other sleeping problems.
- Extreme fear of "monsters."
- "Spacing out" at odd times.
- Loss of appetite, or trouble eating or swallowing.
- Sudden mood swings: rage, fear, anger, or withdrawal.
- Fear of certain people or places (e.g., a child may not want to be left alone with a babysitter, a friend, a relative, or some other child or adult).
- Stomach illness with no identifiable reason.
- An older child behaving like a younger child, such as bed-wetting or thumb sucking.
- Sexual activities with toys or other children, such as simulating sex with dolls or asking other children/siblings to behave sexually.
- New words for private body parts.
- Refusing to talk about a "secret" he/she has with an adult or older child.
- Talking about a new older friend.
- Suddenly having money.
- As an adolescent, cutting or burning herself or himself.

Additionally, there are obvious physical symptoms that are clear signs of sexual abuse. Adults should take appropriate and

immediate action if they detect any of the following physical warning signs.

- Unexplained bruises, redness, or bleeding of the child's genitals, anus, or mouth.
- Pain at the genitals, anus, or mouth.
- Genital sores or milky fluids in the genital area.

RETURN TO TRAINING

Over 160 employees and volunteers attend a recent training at Holy Trinity this month. Remember, if you work regularly with children you must attend an Honor Thy Children Safe Environment Workshop.



MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

As the new normal takes hold at the start of another school year, it's great to see schools and parishes responding to their Safe Environment obligations.

After an extended period of limited attendance at trainings, numbers of participants are on the increase as opportunities to work with youth within the Archdiocese of Louisville increase.

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 work regularly with children or youth (18 and under) are required to participate in one of the 2-hour Safe Environment Training Workshops.

At the conclusion of each training, participants are reminded to return a copy of their training attendance to their parish/school.

In turn each parish/school is required to maintain a copy on file of a member's attendance.

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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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.

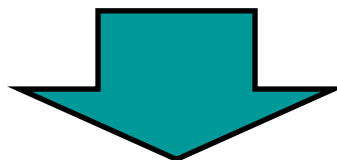
We must heed God's call to care for the most vulnerable among us and to continue our efforts toward wholeness and health in dealing with sexual abuse.

THE CODE OF CONDUCT

On June 14, 2002, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. 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. Part of that charter requires a "Code of Conduct" each person working with children agrees to. By completing the "Honor Thy Children" Safe Environment Training Workshop members proclaim they "understand"

and accept the policies set forth and agree to abide by those policies. Some examples of the Code of Conduct include, (but aren't limited to) below...



RESTORING TRUST: THE SEXUAL ABUSE POLICIES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE CODE OF CONDUCT

- Avoid meeting privately with minors in areas where there is no window or where the door cannot remain open. If one-on-one pastoral care of a minor is necessary (e.g. Sacrament of Reconciliation), avoid meeting in isolated environments.
- Release young people only to parents or guardians, unless the parent or guardian has provided permission allowing release to another adult.
- Ensure that all social media utilized in ministry with minors be approved and monitored by the appropriate administrator (pastor, principal, director). Ensure that parents are informed about all social media communication utilized by the group/ ministry in question.
- Never use alcohol when engaged in ministering to minor.
- Avoid driving alone in a vehicle with a young person.

These are just a few of the policies addressed during the "Honor Thy Children" Safe Environment Training. More can be found in the "Restoring Trust Manual" available for download at https://www.archlou.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Restoring-Trust-2013_rev_oct_18_wo_acknowledgement.pdf