



Honor Thy Children

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

U.S. OLYMPIC REPORT: 93 PERCENT OF ATHLETES SURVEYED WHO EXPERIENCED SEXUAL HARASSMENT OR UNWANTED CONTACT SAY THEY DIDN'T REPORT IT

Archdiocese of
Louisville

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**CREDIT DAN BOYCE
(CPR.ORG)**

A Denver-based organization created to address rampant nationwide abuse against child athletes has released the results of its first survey into the topic.

Through interviews with nearly 4,000 athletes in more than 50 sports, the nonprofit U.S. Center for SafeSport found 93 percent of respondents who experienced sexual harassment or unwanted contact during their time in sports did not report it. "We've got a lot of infrastructure in place to take reports, and every day we try to get athletes to feel more comfortable in reporting when they see or experience abuse. So, that was certainly jaw-dropping to me," said the center's CEO, JuRiese Colon.

Colon said most of the survey respondents were white, heterosexual females. Nearly half of them said they were aware of a coach developing a sexual relationship with an athlete they had taught as a minor.

The center was created out of legislation passed

by Congress in 2017 following the sexual abuse scandal surrounding former U.S. Gymnastics team doctor Larry Nassar. A bill championed by both former Colorado Sen. Cory



Gardner and current Rep. Diana DeGette that gives Congress oversight of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee also became law.

Colon said social movements like #MeToo, along with high-profile athlete sex assault cases in the years since the center's founding have led to more reporting — from 300 received in 2017 to nearly 3,000 last year. The survey marks the most significant release from the organization, and it's intended to form the baseline of their efforts for the next few years. It also found nearly 28 percent of participants think sexual, emotional or physical misconduct is a problem in their sport.

Nearly 10 percent said they experienced inappropriate sexual contact themselves and of those respondents, 18 percent said they were retaliated against when they came forward. Colon said the survey results will help the organization tailor resources and information they provide to the National Governing Bodies of Sports, which help develop and organize sports from youth leagues up to the Olympic level. Colon said the center plans to conduct another survey in 2023.

The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee, based in Colorado Springs, did not immediately provide an interview.

Anyone coaching youth
MUST complete the
Archdiocese of
Louisville's Safe
Environment Training
and have a satisfactory
background check **NOT**
older than 5 years.



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 attend-
ed 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!

WHY 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. Education is a large part of the Archdiocese of Louisville's Safe Environment program. While education alone cannot shape mature attitudes and behavior, it is a powerful tool in raising awareness and in educating staff and volunteers about child abuse and about their legal and moral responsibilities to report abuse. The Archdiocese has in place a "safe environment" program to insure that children and youth who worship, study, or participate in Church programs can do so safely. The backbone of this program is the "Code of Conduct" for all adults who work with youth on a regular basis. This code defines and establishes acceptable behavior that is legal, professional, and responsible. This Archdiocese of Louisville specific code of conduct is

discussed and reviewed at all Archdiocese of Louisville Safe Environment Trainings with facilitators available immediately after to answer any questions participants have. Additionally, this code is available online at www.archlou.org in Appendix D of the "Restoring Trust: The Sexual Abuse Policies of the Archdiocese of Louisville" manual. Upon completion of the training members are required to sign and acknowledge they agree to abide by these guidelines and a copy is kept on file at the member's parish/school. If you are going to be working regularly with children and young people and haven't completed a Safe Environment Workshop, you are strongly encouraged to do so at your earliest opportunity. A full schedule of trainings is always available at www.archlou.org/safe. In addition to the training all members MUST have a satisfactory background check on file NOT older than 5 years. It's always a good idea to check the status of your compliance with your local parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator to ensure you're up to date. If you don't know who that is, please contact Scott Fitzgerald, Archdiocese of Louisville Coordinator of Safe Environment Services via email (sfitzgerald@archlou.org) or 502.471.2132.



Nearly 100 employees and volunteers gathered inside Incarnation's gymnasium for a training this month.

Log on to www.archlou.org/safe for the latest scheduled trainings

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.

11.8.21

**St. John The Apostle
(Brandenburg)**

11.3.21

St. Gabriel

11.15.21

St. Margaret Mary

12.2.21

St. Albert The Great

12.15.21

St. Gabriel

1.17.22

Incarnation

1.26.22

St. Albert the Great

A complete list of trainings can always be found at

www.archlou.org/safe

Be sure to bookmark this site for updates and/or cancellations as we enter inclement weather season and the website is the primary avenue for communicating changes to the training schedule.



TYPES OF ABUSE DISCLOSURE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The barriers to disclosure involve not only the power that abusers have over children, but also the reality that sex and sexuality are difficult topics for children to discuss with adults. Messages that children receive about sex and sexuality often create an atmosphere in which talking about sexual abuse is embarrassing or worse, forbidden. Furthermore, sexual abuse is humiliating and causes shame for children, which inhibits their disclosure. That said there are varying types of disclosure.

Children tend to disclose either purposefully by deliberately telling someone or accidentally by giving out clues or signs. More often, children disclose accidentally by attempting to signal adult caregivers that they are in pain. Be aware that children are attempting to "tell" through subtle behaviors. Hence, an attentive adult who notices and attends to these subtle signs is necessary for the disclosure to occur.

There are immediate and long-term disclosures. Immediate disclosure refers to a telling that occurs while the abuse is occurring. Know that there are times when abusers will stop offending a particular child because of the anticipated consequence to the abuser. Faced with being accused or "found out," abusers may change their behavior to protect themselves. Long-term disclosure refers to a telling that

happens once the abusive interaction has ended. This includes situations in which an older adolescent or adult discloses that he or she was abused as a child. Although the individual may



be out of harm's way, he or she will likely feel some emotional vulnerability that needs attention. Working to create an age-appropriate safety plan to deal with flashbacks, feelings of suicide, and self-imposed guilt/shame is critical with this disclosure. Whichever way children or adults disclose, it is important to acknowledge the courage that it took for them to disclose and attend to their safety. In many cases when a long-term disclosure has been made, the individual continues to experience the fear imposed by the threats they experienced as children.

For questions or concerns surrounding disclosure, feel free to reach out to the Archdiocese of Louisville's Victim Assistance Coordinator Martine Siegel at 502.636.1044 or msiegel@archlou.org.

SOME EXAMPLES OF "SUBTLE SIGNS OF ABUSE"

- Nightmares, trouble sleeping, fear of the dark, etc.
- 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.

These are only a few examples, if something seems out of the ordinary, trust your gut and seek answers immediately. Feel free to contact Martine Siegel with any questions or concerns you may have.

MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

During October our office received several calls from volunteers who waited until the last minute to attend a Safe Environment Training only to find out the next training was after their event.

If you or someone you know think you will be working regularly with children or have a need to be Safe Environment compliant, make plans now to attend an upcoming training.



This time of the year weather can change quickly and sometimes trainings need to be postponed amid road conditions, etc.

If you are working regularly with minors you **MUST** complete the Archdiocese of Louisville's Safe Environment Training and have a satisfactory background check NOT older than five years.

Given we review the Archdiocese of Louisville specific Code of Conduct during our trainings, we do not accept another diocese's training.

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**

Martine Bacci Siegel, MSN, RN, CNS
Maloney Center
1200 South Shelby Street
Louisville, KY 40220

Phone: 502.636.1044
Fax: 502.634.3381
E-mail: msiegel@archlou.org

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.

TOGETHER WE CAN PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

The Archdiocese of Louisville is partnered with the face it movement and Kosair Charities to work toward eliminating child abuse in Kentucky. Here are some suggestions that you can do as well!

TALK TO YOUR COMMUNITY

- Talk to other adults about abuse to help build awareness.
- Be sure those working with children are properly vetted (i.e. background checks).
- Meet and greet your neighbors and maintain relationships with family and friends to help foster strong communities.

OFFER TO HELP

- Volunteer and take part in community activities that serve children.
- If you have experience caring for children offer to watch the children of your friends, family and neighbors when they need a break or seem frustrated.
- Reduce or prevent isolated, one-on-one situations between children and adults or youth to help reduce the risk of sexual abuse.

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.

**Report any suspected child abuse or neglect by
calling 1.877.KYSAFE1 or visit
www.reportitky.org**

TALK TO YOUR KIDS

- Ensure they know the difference between "okay" touches and "not okay" touches.
- Teach children that once they can bathe and use the restroom on their own they should not accept help from adults and older children.
- Educate children about good and bad secrets. A surprise birthday party is a good secret because it isn't kept forever. A secret that they are told to keep forever is not okay.

