



# Honor Thy Children

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

## RESPONDING TO CHILDREN WHEN THEY COME TO YOU

The Archdiocese of Louisville has partnered up with the Face It movement on many fronts when it comes to combating child sexual abuse. Below are some helpful tips when it comes to keeping our kids safe. But what would you do if a child came to you disclosing they were abused? We should presume the child is telling the truth. Children are more likely to report abuse when they know their telling will lead to protection. Respond by being honest and direct. Acknowledge the child's courage in disclosing and ask what it

is he or she hopes will happen. Provide the child with as much information as possible and allow the



child some age-appropriate choices about the process. Choices might include allowing the child to be present when the report to authorities is made or in

the case of an older child, allowing the child to make the report. These choices empower the child and allow for some control of the situation. Assure the child that he or she is not to blame, and that the abuse and its consequences are the fault of the abuser, not the child. Regardless if you're ever approached by a child who discloses and need questions answered, please reach out to Martine Siegel, Archdiocese of Louisville Victim Assistance Coordinator at 502.636.1044 or via email ([msiegel@archlou.org](mailto:msiegel@archlou.org)).

***Most victims of sexual abuse were abused by someone they knew or in a place they were familiar with. You can take steps to surround children with safe caregivers in safe environments***

Abusers often become friendly with potential victims and their families, earning trust, and gaining time alone with children. Observe your child with others and listen to your gut. If you feel uncomfortable with the way an adult is interacting with your child, step in.

- Ask your babysitter for background checks, including criminal and child abuse/neglect checks.
- Check with your parish/school safe environment coordinator to see if your child's coach/volunteer/teacher have a background check not older than five years and have attended the Archdiocese of Louisville's Safe Environment Training.
- Monitor children's Internet and smartphone use. Offenders have been known to use the Internet to lure children into physical contact.

### Archdiocese of Louisville

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### If you need support or someone to talk to:

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

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

See your Safe Environment Coordinator today to verify your compliance!

## CODE OF CONDUCT

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. A major component of the in person Safe Environment Training is the "Code of Conduct" that is meant to assist employees and volunteers who work with young people to employ good sense and best practices 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. Take a look below at some examples of the "Code of Conduct". Were you aware of these? These are just some. Many more can be found the Restoring Trust handbook given out at each in person training.

- Avoid being alone with a minor in a residence, rectory, sleeping facility, locker room, rest room, dressing facility, or other closed rooms.
- Never take an overnight trip alone with a minor.
- Avoid driving alone in a vehicle with a young person
- Never use alcohol when engaged in ministering to minor.
- Ensure that all activities (extracurricular, catechetical, youth ministry, scouting, athletics, etc.) for which I am responsible have been approved in advance by the appropriate administrator.

## REFRESHER TRAINING OR IN PERSON?

Have you attended an in person Safe Environment Training ?

**NO**

Make plans to attend any of the live trainings offered at [www.archlou.org/safe](http://www.archlou.org/safe)

**YES**

You must complete the on-line refresher training OR attend another in person training within 5 years of completing the INITIAL in person training

**INITIAL TRAININGS MUST BE COMPLETED IN PERSON**

If you're eligible for the online training, please see your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator for a link to the training. Again this is ONLY if you've attended an in person training

## 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.

1.24.22  
Incarnation

1.26.22  
St. Albert the Great

Our current spring training schedule is in discussion and will be finalized very soon. As soon as dates/locations are locked in the below website will be updated.

A complete list of trainings can always be found at

[www.archlou.org/safe](http://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.



## HOW CHILDREN ARE EFFECTED BY CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Children are individuals, and each is affected differently by abuse. A number of people could have the trauma of sexual abuse occur in their lives, but each individual will respond and react in varying ways according to his or her personality, family of origin, support systems, gender, age at the time of the abuse, and many other variables too numerous to list. Other factors that impact the magnitude of the damage include duration of abuse, level of intrusiveness/violation of the abuse, type and severity of threats used to maintain secrecy, relationship to the abuser, the number of perpetrators, and age at the time of disclosure as well as reactions to disclosure. It is never appropriate to try to predict how a child may be affected by sexual abuse. What someone may deem "mild" sexual abuse may traumatize a child the rest of his

or her life. Another child that suffered from what others may describe as "severe" abuse, may, with proper care, heal and live a healthy and productive life. The effects of abuse are unpredictable, and all individuals need support and compassion as they find their unique paths to healing. In general:

- ◆ The younger the age of the child at the onset and the longer the duration of the sexual abuse, the more severe are the effects of sexual abuse.
- ◆ The closer the relationship of the child to the abuser, the larger the impact on the child.
- ◆ Negative and non-supportive reactions from persons to whom children disclose (disbelief, denial, making excuses) cause negative effects on how the children respond as well as on their healing process.

## KENTUCKY REVISED STATUTES WHEN REPORTING ABUSE



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 about possible abuse. There are some Kentucky Revised Statutes that you should be aware of when 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)]. Should you have any questions regarding reporting, please feel free to contact Martine Siegel, Archdiocese of Louisville Victim Assistance Coordinator at 502.636.1044 or via email at [msiegel@archlou.org](mailto:msiegel@archlou.org).

### MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

The response to the online refresher training has been amazing!

It is hoped this will provide a convenient way for members to brush up on the initial training they received when the first served or became employed.

Remember this is **ONLY** if you've attended the in-person training initially.

Members are now required to refresh their training every five years by either completing the online training or by attending any of the scheduled online trainings.

Again if you need the link to the online trainings please reach out to your school/parish safe environment coordinator and they can get you set up.

Our spring schedule of trainings are in discussion now and will be finalized shortly.

Any updates to the schedule will be posted at [www.archlou.org/safe](http://www.archlou.org/safe)

You are still welcome to reach out Scott Fitzgerald, Archdiocese of Louisville Coordinator of Safe Environment Services via email [sfitzgerald@archlou.org](mailto:sfitzgerald@archlou.org) or direct line at 502.471.2132 to check the status of trainings.





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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](mailto: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.

## EMPOWERING SAFE BOUNDRIES WITH OUR CHILDREN

LET'S FACE IT, trusting people with our children is hard, even at school or on a sports team. Trusting other adults to care for your child during a sleepover or playdate can be especially tough. There are some things children need to know for their own safety and to help them set body boundaries thanks to our friends at the FACE IT movement

- Make sure your child uses the correct names for body parts, including their genitals, and knows the difference between "okay" and "not okay" touches.
- No one should ask to see or touch their private parts or show them pictures of private parts. Teach them if those things occur, tell a trusted adult.
- Teach children that it's okay for them to say "no" if they don't want to hug or kiss someone, including the family where they will be staying, and always respect the child's decision.
- Educate children about the difference between good secrets and bad secrets. A surprise party is a good secret because it isn't kept for long. A secret that they are told to keep forever is not okay.
- Make sure your child knows how to bathe themselves and change their own clothes. Teach them that it is OK to change their clothes alone in the bathroom or bedroom with the door closed, and they do not have to share a bed with their friends if it makes them uncomfortable

