



Honor Thy Children

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

WHY SAFE ENVIRONMENT?

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 participate in one of the 2-hour Safe Environment Training Workshops. 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. During the Safe Environment training participants will learn to identify the signs of child



sexual abuse, understanding the dynamics of child sexual abuse, including how children are groomed and how they may attempt to reveal their experience. Participants will also learn how to take action in response to child sexual abuse, including obligation to report and caring for the abused child. Participants will also become familiar with new archdiocesan policies and Code of Conduct regarding work with children. To date, well over 56,500 participants have attended the Archdiocese of Louisville's Safe

Environment Training. Anyone having never attended an Archdiocese of Louisville's Safe Environment Training MUST attend and IN PERSON training listed at www.archlou.org/safe. Starting this year, if it's

been more than five years since you completed your training, you must complete a "refresher" training. The refresher course can be completed online or you may attend any scheduled in person training as well. You CANNOT satisfy the initial training online. The initial training must be completed IN PERSON. To complete your refresher training, please see your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator for a link to the training. If you don't know who that is, please contact Scott Fitzgerald, Archdiocese of Louisville Coordinator of Safe Environment Services and he will put you in contact with them.

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 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.
- You must also have a satisfactory background check not older than 5 years.
- See your Safe Environment Coordinator today to verify your compliance!

www.archlou.org/safe

Visit this website for the latest training dates and/or cancellations due to inclement weather

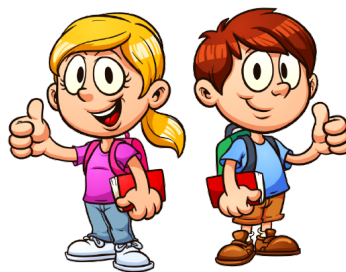
KENTUCKY LAWMAKERS ACT TO REVERSE WORST IN NATION CHILD ABUSE NUMBERS

Lawmakers in Frankfort this month acted in reversing Kentucky's child abuse numbers that are the worst in the nation by approving legislation in the Senate Health and Welfare committee that expands the use of family preservation services to work with families where children are at risk of being removed from their home. "We're going to hear a lot of things this session, and I would argue this will probably be the most important bill we pass this year", said committee chair Senator Ralph Alvarado.



Senate Bill 8 is designed to address loopholes in Kentucky's current child abuse and neglect laws. It will expand the Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention Board to include all forms of child abuse and neglect while updating the Foster Youth Bill of Rights. Furthermore, it expands the ability for family preservation services. It also provides additional resources for Kentucky Child Advocacy Centers. The bill easily passed out of committee and now heads to the full Senate

for approval and will need house approval. "Our kids deserve it," said Sen. Julie Raque Adams. "That's why the Senate has made this a priority bill. That's why I almost cried at the table. That's why everybody on this committee is invested. Because we need to make a difference."



UNDERSTANDING GROOMING

Adults who sexually abuse children seek out vulnerable children - children that are easier to manipulate relative to other children. This means targeting children with whom they have ready access, as well as those who are left alone by adult caregivers and/or possess low self-esteem. Abusers gain a child's cooperation through manipulation, threats, and bribery. The initial stages of abuse involve subtle, seemingly innocent actions that prey upon a child's lack of knowledge and maturity to violate normal boundaries. This process of manipulating children to become increasingly comfortable with the violations of their

boundaries is termed "grooming." Grooming begins with indirect violations that are difficult to identify as preludes to sexual abuse. Such things as tickling a child, hugging a child, or patting the child's backside may not be abusive but could serve as the beginning of the grooming process. For the adult abuser, these interactions are sexually charged. Children, having no experience with the notion of "sexually charged" experiences, are unable to put words to what is happening. They only know that something is a "little weird." This awkward experience is called an "uh-oh" feeling and is often described in

safe-touch programs for children. The "uh-oh" feeling is confusing, because of the trust that the child feels for the adult. Children also tend to discount their own "uh-oh" feelings because the abuser uses minimization to justify his or her violations. As the grooming process evolves, sexually violating behaviors become seemingly normal so that each progressive, intrusive step is experienced as only a slight violation of the previously established boundary.

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.

2.7.22

St. Joseph (Bardstown)

2.16.22

St. Margaret Mary

2.24.22

St. Rita

SPANISH SPEAKING ONLY

2.28.22

St. Gabriel

3.7.22

Incarnation

3.14.22

St. Albert the Great

4.19.22

St. Gabriel

4.25.22

Incarnation

5.2.22

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.

Playing It Safe

TIPS FOR SAFE SLEEPOVERS AND TIME WITH FRIENDS

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. Whether school-aged or in high school, there are some things children need to know for their own safety and to help them set body boundaries.

WHAT KIDS SHOULD KNOW FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY

- Their parents or caregivers' full names and phone numbers.
- How to dial 911 and when it's appropriate to do so.
- The difference between adults and teenagers. Young children may assume that everyone who is "bigger" is a safe adult, but they may be an older child.

EMPOWER WITH SAFE BOUNDRIES

- 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.

QUESTIONS FOR ADULTS

- Will there be any other children or adults in the home?
- What are the sleeping arrangements?
- Are they swimming or doing another activity that may require a change of clothes or sunscreen?

DETAILS TO SHARE

- Your phone number and the phone number of at least one other trusted adult.
- Online expectations. For example, what content or apps is your child allowed to use? What photos or information about your child are OK to post on social media?
- Tell the other caregiver about the body boundaries you have discussed with your child. And tell them that it is OK for your child to call you if needed

These tips courtesy of our partners at the "face it" movement



MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

As you can see, we have scheduled Safe Environment trainings through the spring.

Please take a minute to review your Safe Environment status if you're currently (or think you will be) serving your parish/school in a capacity that requires you to be Safe Environment compliant.

As per the USCCB, compliance requires that you've initially attended an IN PERSON Safe Environment Training.

If you've already completed the initial in person training you are required to update your training every five years. This can be satisfied by attending any scheduled in person training or by completing an online refresher course. As a friendly reminder, the refresher course is only available to those who have already completed the IN PERSON training.

Please see your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator for instructions on completing the online training if you're eligible.

If you're a parent of a child, please feel free to reach out to your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator and confirm that your child's coach/teacher or mentor are up to date with their Safe Environment compliance.

If you're unsure of who your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator is feel free to contact

Scott Fitzgerald
Archdiocese of Louisville
Coordinator of Safe
Environment Services

sfitzgerald@archlou.org
or
502.471.2132

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.

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

As per KRS 620.030(1), anyone with a reasonable suspicion that a child is dependent, abused or neglected is required to make a report to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. It's natural to have questions when reporting suspected abuse. Below are some of the more commonly asked questions and answers courtesy of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

Q. Can a social worker just remove a child from a home?

A. No. Only the police have that authority if they feel that a child is in imminent danger. A judge can issue an emergency custody order (ECO) for a child to be picked up and held for 72 hours before a hearing. KRS 620.040(3)(b) allows a hospital administrator or a physician treating a child to hold that child without a court order but they must request an ECO within 72 hours.

Q. Can an investigative worker interview a child without the parent's consent?

A. As per KRS 620.072, a school or childcare provider shall provide access to the child without parental consent.

Q. Are there legal protections afforded to those who report?

A. Anyone acting upon reasonable cause in the making of a report or acting under KRS 620.030 to 620.050 in good faith shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed. Any such participant shall have the same immunity with respect to participation in any judicial proceeding resulting from such report or action. However, any person who knowingly makes a false report and does so with malice shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

Q. What happens to children who are being abused if it is reported?

A. Reports are investigated by DCBS. Based on information obtained during the investigation, services may be offered to maintain the family. Children are removed only if the home is unsafe.

Should you have questions regarding reporting, Martine Siegel, Archdiocese of Louisville, Victim Assistance Coordinator is available by contacting her at 502.636.1044 or msiegel@archlou.org