



# Honor Thy Children

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

## WAYS CHILDREN DISCLOSE ABUSE

**Archdiocese of  
Louisville**

April 2022

### **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.pcain.org](http://www.pcain.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!

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. Children tend to disclose in two ways, 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.

### **SAFE ENVIRONMENT REFRESHER TRAINING**

Those who have contact with children are now required to update their Safe Environment Training every five years. This can be satisfied by taking the online refresher course OR by attending an in-person live training.

**NEW EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS MUST ATTEND  
AN IN-PERSON WORKSHOP**

**THERE IS NO ONLINE OPTION FOR AN INITIAL TRAINING**

Please see your school/parish Safe Environment coordinator to check your status.



Special Thank You to St. Martha, St. Gabriel and Incarnation for hosting Safe Environment Trainings this month!

Trainings are held each month for those working with children. Don't miss out on an opportunity to serve your parish or school because you're non compliant. To be compliant you must have initially attended an in person training and have refreshed your training if it is older than 5 years.

To check your compliance contact your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator. If you don't know who that is, feel free to contact

Scott Fitzgerald  
Coordinator of Safe Environment Services  
Archdiocese of Louisville  
502.471.2132 or via email [sfitzgerald@archlou.org](mailto:sfitzgerald@archlou.org)

## REPORTING CHILD ABUSE IN KENTUCKY

As stated in KRS 620.030, "any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child is dependent, neglected, or abused shall immediately cause an oral or written report to be made to a local law enforcement agency, or the Kentucky state police, the cabinet or its designated representative, or the Commonwealth's attorney by telephone or otherwise." In reporting abuse of children and adults, keep in mind it is better to err on the side of over-reporting than under-reporting. Listed here are some things you need to know when reporting abuse.

Also know that 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)].

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.

### UPCOMING TRAININGS

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

*If you think you will be working 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.*

5.2.22

St. Albert the Great

5.23.22

Holy Spirit-Louisville

*More trainings are being scheduled for June & July and will be posted once confirmed*

*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.*

**AGAIN, MORE TRAININGS WILL BE SCHEDULED DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.**

*Once those are finalized they will be published to the website and communicated to each parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator*

**Report abuse to the statewide hotline at**

**1-877-KYSAFE1  
(1-877-597-2331)**

**or to the county in which the abuse has taken place**

# 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. Below are various elements of grooming highlighted below.

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.

A child's shame and embarrassment at having "allowed" the abuse reinforces the secrecy. Soon after the onset of the abuse, children begin to feel complicit in their own abuse. They accept responsibility for causing it and feel as though they deserved it or that they should have stopped it.

Threats ensure the child's secrecy. "If you tell, you'll get in trouble," "If you tell, your mommy and daddy will be sad," "If you tell, I'll have to go away" are classic examples of powerful threats used to gain control over children. The threats place responsibility onto the child for any bad things occurring as a result of the child telling, while dismissing the wrongdoing of the sexual violation. The threat frequently involves killing someone or something that the child loves, such as a sibling, parent, or pet. This threat is frightening enough to keep the child fearful of revealing the abuse.

Bribery can be both subtle and overt. Bribery may include seeking special time with a child and/or providing gifts such as money and candy.

Accepting these bribes create guilt, shame, and a sense of responsibility for the child's sexual abuse. Abusers also rely on the child's inherent narcissism in that they accept responsibility for the abusive relations. The child's feelings of complicity assist in maintaining the child's silence, which in turn, reinforces the child's experience that he or she is responsible for the abuse.

Adult abusers often distort love and affection in order to increase children's vulnerability. Abusers often redefine their actions as "natural expressions of love," suggesting that they are doing these things "for the child's own good" including describing their actions as a form of "sex education." Such re-definitions reinforce the confusion that children feel and further cause them to doubt their own "uh-oh" feelings. Children are accustomed to the idea that something that pains them is good for them, i.e. getting a shot or a spanking. Adult abusers use these same arguments to justify and explain their behavior.

## MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

It was a very busy month of verifying Safe Environment Training attendance as schools and parishes resume pre-pandemic activities.

Many of these requests were at the last minute and in some cases prevented members from serving their parish or school until they were Safe Environment compliant.

Compliance consists of three elements....

### ONE (1)

Initial completion of an  
IN PERSON

[Archdiocese of Louisville Safe Environment Training Workshop](#)

### TWO (2)

A background check initiated by the Archdiocese of Louisville not older than 5 years

### THREE (3)

Completion of a Safe Environment Refresher Training every 5 years.

This can be done online or by attending any one of the scheduled in person trainings.

*(The online option may ONLY be completed if you've initially completed an in person training)*

*See your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator for details*

Summer Safe Environment Trainings are being coordinated now and will be posted once finalized.

Summer is the best time to ensure you are compliant as fall and back to school season will arrive quickly and you don't want to be left out due to non-compliance.

**COMPLIANT**



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](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.

## CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CHURCH PERSONNEL

*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. Below are some examples found in the "Code of Conduct" that are 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. These are reviewed at the required in person initial training. They can also be found in the "Restoring Trust" booklet given to all training participants.*

- 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.
- Avoid providing overnight accommodations for minors in rectories or private homes.
- 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.
- Ensure that all activities (extracurricular, catechetical, youth ministry, scouting, athletics, etc.) for which you are responsible have been approved in advance by the appropriate administrator.



- 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.

Again, these are just a few examples, for more examples please refer to the "Restoring Trust" booklet reviewed at each required in person training. You can also find a copy online by [clicking here](#).