



# Honor Thy Children

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

# 600+!



*Archdiocese of Louisville staff and volunteers participate in a Safe Environment Training at Incarnation this month. One of many around the Archdiocese that saw well over 600 participate in August alone!*

All persons working with children must complete an initial in person training at any of the Archdiocese of Louisville scheduled trainings.

After that, a person is required to complete a five-year refresher training either online or any of the in-person trainings.

If you've completed the in-person training and would like to pursue the online option for your refresher, please see your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator so they can confirm your initial in person attendance and give you instructions for completing the online refresher.

**Each parish/school is required to maintain a database of those working with children who require a Safe Environment Training and a current background check. Are you compliant?**

**Check in with your parish/school  
Safe Environment Coordinator today!**

**Archdiocese of  
Louisville**

August 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.pcainc.org](http://www.pcainc.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.

Has it been 5 years since your initial in person training? You must complete your 5 year refresher training

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

See your Safe Environment Coordinator today to verify your compliance!

# UNDERSTANDING CHILD ABUSE. MYTH V. FACT

If someone asked you today "What is child abuse?" How would you answer? To effectively combat abuse, we need to understand what it is. Child abuse, including child sexual abuse, has occurred throughout our society for many years. After several years of decline, child abuse appears to be on the rise again and child sexual abuse is a significant aspect of this increase<sup>1</sup>. Child abuse is widespread. It cuts across all cultures, religions, and socioeconomic groups. It is estimated that approximately one in four girls and one in six boys are sexually abused by the time they are 18 years of age. Many people are well into adulthood before something triggers in them a need to reveal childhood sexual abuse. Because childhood sexual abuse is

traumatic, many will suppress these memories out of pain and survival, only to recall later what actually happened. This is a common scenario in post traumatic stress disorders (PTSD).



Many, out of shame, will unfortunately never report the abuse. It is estimated that only 10% of victims report their abuse, which is a fraction of the sexual abuse that actually occurs. Simply stated, child sexual abuse is defined as any adult interaction with a child for the purpose of meeting the sexual needs

of an adult. Sexual abuse can be physical, verbal, auditory, or visual and therefore does not necessarily require physical contact between the abuser and the child. For example, watching a child undress, take a shower, or go to the bathroom for the purpose of creating sexual arousal would be child sexual abuse. Other non-physical behaviors include an adult exposing his or her sexual organs to a child and speaking to a child about things of a sexual nature that are inappropriate for the child's age. Viewing, possessing, or distributing child pornography is criminal and is a form of sexual abuse that is becoming an increasing problem in our society.

## SEPERATING MYTH FROM FACT

*In addition to acknowledging what child sexual abuse is, it is important to dispel myths concerning child sexual abuse*

### MYTH

*Strangers are responsible for most child abuse.*

*Most sexual abusers are homosexuals.*

*Children usually lie about sexual abuse.*

### FACT

Most child abuse, including sexual abuse, is perpetrated by someone known to the child.

Most sexual abusers are male, and the vast majority are heterosexual.

The rate of false reporting, or lying about sexual abuse is the same as the incidence of false reporting of any other type of crime.

### UPCOMING TRAININGS

All trainings start at 630p unless otherwise indicated.

*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.*

9.6.22  
St. Gabriel

9.19.22  
St. Augustine

9.20.22  
Catholic Enrichment Center  
(4:00 pm start time)

9.26.22  
Holy Spirit (Louisville)

9.27.22  
St. Bernard

(Additional fall trainings are in the work October & November and will be posted online once finalized)

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.



# SLEEPING OVER? TIPS FOR KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

Back to school means more time for getting together with friends and more opportunities for kids to ask "Can I spend the night?" or "Can I have some friends over?" Depending on the age of your child/children you may have questions.

Credit to our partners at the FaceIt initiative led by Kosair Charities who offer up some helpful tips to consider before sending your kids off for the night. For more tips visit [www.faceitabuse.org](http://www.faceitabuse.org)



## Be Available

Even if you've dropped your child off hours ago and you think everything is going well, you should still be prepared to get the call that they want to come home. It is important that kids feel safe asking for help. Tell them repeatedly that they can call you anytime if they want to come home. They don't need to feel embarrassed or feel pressured to stay.

### Tips to Be Prepared

- ▶ Come up with a code word or phrase your child can say on the phone when they want to be picked up, like "let's go shopping" or asking about their pet.
- ▶ If your child has a cell phone, ask if they'd like for you to check in on them, and remind them that they can call or text you anytime.
- ▶ If you're going to be away from home while your child is gone, make sure someone else is available. Coordinate with another caretaker, family member, or close friend who can pick them up if necessary.
- ▶ If you're hosting the sleepover, place night lights in important places like near the steps, in the bathroom, and dark hallways. Make sure the kids know how to get to your room and that they can wake you up if there's an emergency or if they need anything.



## MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

As you can see from page 1 Safe Environment Trainings are off and running in 2022 and back to pre-pandemic levels.



As we flip the calendar to fall, the seasons will start to change and weather can change quickly. Should trainings need to be cancelled and rescheduled notice will be posted at

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

Notice will also be sent to parish Safe Environment Coordinators as well as elementary and high school principals with a request for widest dissemination to parish and school members.

As always you're welcome to reach out to....

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

If after hours or a weekend a voice mail message and auto reply email will notify of a cancelled or postponed training.

If there is neither consider the training still on as scheduled.

## STAY INFORMED



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](mailto: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](mailto:victimassistance@archlou.org)

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.

# SAFE ENVIRONMENT

## *Why it's important and what you need to know...*

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.

### **IMPORTANT TO KNOW**

- **No one under the age of 16 will be admitted** due to the nature of material discussed.
- You must arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the workshop start time listed for all locations in order to complete paperwork. **Failure to do so will result in you having to take the class again.**
- All registrants must attend, stay for the **ENTIRE** 2-hour presentation, and complete completion paperwork. **Failure to do so will result in having to re-complete the course in the correct manner.**

### **Participants will leave....**

- Identifying 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
- Knowing how to take action in response to child sexual abuse, including obligation to report and caring for the abused child.
- Familiar with new archdiocesan policies and Code of Conduct regarding work with children
- With a copy of the new Sexual Abuse Policies and a resource manual.

No registration is necessary. Sign-in sheets will be available at the workshops.