



Honor Thy Children

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

DID YOU 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 for ANY length of time are required to participate in one of the 2-hour Safe Environment Training Workshops. At the completion of the training persons will be able to identify signs of child sexual abuse, understand the dynamics of child sexual abuse (to include 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.

Furthermore participants will become familiar with Archdiocesan policies and Code of Conduct regarding work with children.



For example, did you know as a coach you are not permitted to transport a child by yourself in your own vehicle, even if you have the parents permission? Also did you know communicating with youth via social media (facebook, twitter, etc.) must be approved by the appropriate administrator (pastor, principal, director)?

What about offering to purchase that expensive piece of athletic equipment for a youth who helped coach your team? Maybe you want to purchase something special for that person who helped you out with a recent youth event. These could all be prohibited by the Archdiocese of Louisville's Code of Conduct.

If you think that you will be serving with youth in the near future make plans now to attend a future in person training. If you've already attended a training and it's been over 5 years, you **MUST** complete the five year refresher training. This can be done online or in person. See your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator for more information.



Over 200 people at St. Bernard took part in one of two Safe Environment Trainings this week. A big thank you to St. Gabriel, Holy Spirit, Holy Trinity, Incarnation, Catholic Enrichment Center, St. Edward (Spanish), St. Catherine, St. Gregory, St. James (E-Town), & St. Augustine for hosting trainings over August & September that saw nearly **1,725** people trained in just two months eclipsing any number for that same period going back to 2010! Thank you!

Archdiocese of Louisville

September 2022

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.

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!

As a Family,

What Can We do to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse?

Establish boundaries

- ✱ It is never too early, even with a toddler, to begin talking to your child about personal body space and privacy.
- ✱ As children grow, teach them to bathe, dress, and go to the bathroom by themselves.
- ✱ Teach children the correct names of body parts (e.g. vagina, penis, buttocks, breasts).
- ✱ Designate a personal space for belongings, as well as personal time alone, for each person in your home.
- ✱ Do not force affection. Do not force children to hug or kiss people. It is okay for them to choose who they want to hug.
- ✱ Remember respect does not mean teaching obedience, sometimes it is okay for a child to say no.
- ✱ Monitor exposure to adult topics by setting age appropriate limits with regard to TV, radio, music, adult conversations, games, and the internet.

Teach assertiveness

- ✱ Come up with different situations where children need to be assertive and practice what they should say and do.
- ✱ Teach children it is okay to say "no", "stop", or "I don't like that."



Teach your child to tell a trusted adult if someone makes him or her feel uncomfortable, including:

- ✱ Asking to touch or look at your child's private parts or asking him/her to touch or look at another person's private parts.
- ✱ Wanting to take or share pictures without parental permission.
- ✱ Telling your child sexual jokes or talking to your child about sex.
- ✱ Going to the bathroom in front of or with your child.
- ✱ Wanting to bathe your child.
- ✱ Making your child feel scared, hurt, or sad.



 **Prevent Child Abuse
Kentucky**

Some important things to remember if you are planning on attending an in person Safe Environment Training...

- Due to the nature of the material discussed, **children under the age of 16 will not be admitted** to Safe Environment Trainings.
- Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the workshop start time listed for all locations in order to complete paperwork. Late arrivals will not be admitted to the training (unless there are extraordinary circumstances)
- Attendees must remain present for the entire workshop. Leaving early will result in having to attend the Safe Environment workshop again, in full.
- 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.



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.

10.5.22
St. Gabriel

10.18.22
St. Dominic

10.23.22
(SPANISH SPEAKING ONLY)
(130p START TIME)
St. Joseph (Louisville)

10.24.22
St. Francis Xavier-
Mt. Washington

11.7.22
St. Patrick

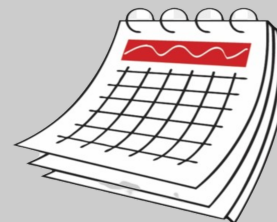
11.14.22
St. Mary Magdalen of Pazzi

11.29.22
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.



Have you ever seen an adult interacting with a child in such a way that made you feel uncomfortable with what you observed? It is human nature to minimize or doubt these suspicious feelings and opt to believe that you are overreacting.

These are "uh-oh" feelings and they should not be ignored. The checklist below offers warning signs that encourage further inquiry when you witness an adult who:

- Refuses to let a child set any of his or her own limits.
- Insists on hugging, touching, kissing, tickling, wrestling with, or holding a child even when the child does not want this affection.
- Is overly interested in the sexuality of a particular child or teen (e.g., talks repeatedly about the child's developing body or interferes with normal teen dating).
- Manages to get time alone or insists on time alone with a child with no interruptions.
- Spends most of his/her spare time with children and has little interest in spending time with someone his or her own age.
- Regularly offers to baby-sit many different children for free or takes children on overnight outings alone.
- Buys a child expensive gifts or gives money for no apparent reason.
- Frequently walks in on children/teens in the bathroom.
- Allows children or teens to consistently get away with inappropriate behaviors.



GETTING HELP

Should you need help, please don't hesitate to reach out to Martine Siegel, Archdiocese of Louisville, Victim Assistance Coordinator at 502.636.1044 or via email (msiegel@archlou.org). Other resources include...

Center for Women and Families - (844) 237-2331 Toll Free Crisis Line

Provides services to victims of sexual abuse and violence in the Kentucky counties of Bullitt, Henry, Jefferson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, and Trimble.

www.TheCenterOnline.org

Family & Children's Place - (502) 893-3900

Broad-based family counseling program serving child and adult victims of violence and families in which a child has been sexually abused by an adult family member or adolescent. www.FamilyAndChildrensPlace.org

NAMI - The National Alliance on Mental Illness - (502) 588-2008

Offers support to individuals suffering with mental illness and their families. This may include abuse, PTSD, anxiety and depression. Services include support groups for the community as well as education. www.namilouisville.org

MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

What a fantastic two months of trainings! As mentioned on page 1 we set a record number of people trained!

While we've been busy training, we've also been busy with last minute verifications of safe environment attendance for things like field trip chaperones and last minute coaches.



If you think you will be serving in the future (even the spring) now is the time to get safe environment compliant.

If you're already compliant, now is the time to check in with your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator and ensure they have your correct information.

If you don't know who that is or have questions in general regarding compliance, please contact Scott Fitzgerald, Archdiocese of Louisville, Coordinator of Safe Environment Services

502.471.2132

or via email

sfitzgerald@archlou.org

STAY INFORMED

SAFE ENVIRONMENT COMPLIANCE

Attendance at an in-person
Archdiocese of Louisville
Safe Environment Training

Archdiocese of Louisville
issued background check



EVERY **5**
years

Attendance at an in-person
Archdiocese of Louisville
Safe Environment Training OR
online refresher

Archdiocese of Louisville
issued background check update

INITIAL

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

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.

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.

If you suspect grooming is going on or have questions please don't hesitate to contact Martine Siegel, Archdiocese of Louisville Victim Assistance Coordinator at 502.636.1044 or via email (msiegel@archlou.org)