



Honor Thy Children

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

CLOSING OUT 2022 ON A HIGH NOTE

Looking back on 2022 we saw a year when Safe Environment participation is near pre-pandemic levels. This included some standing room only trainings. This year we logged our second highest number of participants (from August to December) in ten years with over 2,300 people attending trainings up from just over 1,600 last year. Also this year, it's been 20 years since the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People that 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). Additionally, the Charter called for the creation of safe environment programs

that help to create communities where children and adults are protected from being the objects of sexual abuse and exploitation. 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 the Archdiocese of Louisville's Safe Environment Program is helpful to all in our communities who are working to prevent and respond to childhood sexual abuse. We have tried to be as clear as possible about our assistance to victims, reporting procedures, and education and prevention efforts. 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.

There are several trainings coming up after the holidays. If you are working with children or think you will or are in doubt as to your compliance, please check with your school/parish Safe Environment Coordinator. If you don't know who that is reach out to Scott Fitzgerald, Archdiocese of Louisville Coordinator of Safe Environment services (sfitzgerald@archlou.org) and he can point you in the right direction. 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.

Archdiocese of Louisville

December 2022/
January 2023
*Special
New Year Edition*

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!

www.archlou.org/safe provides a current list of scheduled in person trainings

REMINDER: An in-person training MUST be completed PRIOR to the on-line refresher

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF ABUSE

Behavioral Changes

When children are experiencing stressors such as divorce or death of a loved one, expect a change in their behavior. Children exhibit similar behavioral changes when they are being sexually abused. No one behavioral change by itself indicates a child is being sexually abused, however, a combination of these symptoms should alert adults to the possibility of sexual abuse:

- ◆ Nightmares, trouble sleeping, fear of the dark, or other sleeping problems.
- ◆ Extreme fear of "monsters."
- ◆ "Spacing out" at odd times.
- ◆ Loss of appetite, or trouble eating or swallowing.
- ◆ Sudden mood swings: rage, fear, anger, or withdrawal.
- ◆ Fear of certain people or places (e.g., a child may not want to be left alone with a babysitter, a friend, a relative, or some other child or adult).
- ◆ Stomach illness with no identifiable reason.
- ◆ An older child behaving like a younger child, such as bed-wetting or thumb sucking.
- ◆ Sexual activities with toys or other children, such as simulating sex with dolls or asking other children/siblings to behave sexually.
- ◆ New words for private body parts.
- ◆ Refusing to talk about a "secret" he/she has with an adult or older child.
- ◆ Talking about a new older friend.
- ◆ Suddenly having money.
- ◆ As an adolescent, cutting or burning herself or himself.

If you have any questions regarding abuse or signs of abuse, please feel free to contact the Archdiocese of Louisville's Safe Environment Coordinator Martine Siegel at 502.636.1044 or via email (msiegel@archlou.org)

Physical Signs

Additionally, there are obvious physical symptoms that are clear signs of sexual abuse. Adults should take appropriate and immediate action if they detect any of the following physical warning signs:

- ◆ Unexplained bruises, redness, or bleeding of the sensitive areas, or mouth.
- ◆ Pain at the genitals, anus, or mouth.
- ◆ Genital sores or milky fluids in sensitive areas.

**REPORT
ABUSE
BY CALLING**

**1-877-
KYSAFE-1**

*Remember, if you see or suspect abuse you must report as per **Kentucky State Law: 620.030 Duty to report dependency, neglect, abuse, human trafficking, or female genital mutilation -- Husband-wife and professional-client/patient privileges not grounds for refusal to report -- Exceptions -- Penalties.** (1) 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 to the Department of Kentucky State Police, the cabinet or its designated representative, the Commonwealth's attorney, or the county attorney by telephone or otherwise*

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.

1.9.23
St. Margaret Mary

1.23.23
St. Bernadette

1.30.23
Holy Spirit (Louisville)

2.7.23
St. Andrew Academy

2.22.23
St. Stephen Martyr

3.6.23
St. Bernard

3.21.23
St. Francis Xavier
Mt. Washington

An updated list 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.



It's important to not delay attendance (even if you're unsure when you'll need the training) as we enter inclement weather season, trainings could be postponed or cancelled due to bad weather.

UNDERSTANDING THE 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. The following "Code of Conduct" 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. Below are some examples of the Code of Conduct. More can be found in the booklet "Restoring Trust" that is issued to each person completing the mandatory in person initial training.



- Never take an overnight trip alone with a minor.
- Avoid driving alone in a vehicle with a young person.
- 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.
- Release young people only to parents or guardians, unless the parent or guardian has provided permission allowing release to another adult.
- Obtain written parental permission, including a signed medical release form, before taking minors away from the parish, school, or agency for events, field trips, etc. Permission slips should include the type, location, dates, and times of the activity and emergency contact numbers.
- Exercise caution in communicating with young people through e-mail, through social media, or through the Internet. Only share work/ministry related e-mail addresses with minors.
- Never participate in chat rooms or video chats with minors unless they have been created for a particular ministry or employment related circumstance. See the social media guidelines for the Archdiocese of Louisville for more detailed information about the use of social media.
- 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.

MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

At each mandatory in person initial training participants are given instructions to return their proof of attendance to their parish or school.

This is important as failure to do so will result in not properly documenting your training.

While the Archdiocese of Louisville maintains a master database of those who attended trainings, each parish/school is required to maintain a local database of their members. Not having proof of your attendance will cause delays in certifying your compliance.

HELPFUL TIP:



Many times members will take a photo of their sign in sheet or proof of attendance and keep it on their phone should they be asked to served at another parish/school.

Be sure to check your compliance with your school/ parish Safe Environment Coordinator periodically.

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

**Archdiocese of Louisville
Office of Safe Environment**

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PREVENTING ABUSE

Listen to and honor children by giving them a voice. Teach them personal boundaries and respect for their bodies. Discuss with children what is appropriate and inappropriate touch. Explain to them that other people do not have the right to touch them in ways that make them uncomfortable. Help younger children identify "private parts," "bathing suit zones" with appropriate terminology for all parts of their

body. Communicate to children that there is nothing wrong with understanding their bodies and talking about their bodies. All bodies are beautiful, sacred, and holy. Adults often give mixed messages to children about their rights to have a say in who touches them and how they are touched. It is not uncommon, for example, for adults to pressure children into kissing or hugging aunts or uncles

whom they may be hesitant to approach. Give children the right to decide who touches them, including family members. As an adult, listen to and trust your own intuition and instincts. If you sense something is not right or seems odd, it may well be. Do not leave children in the care of someone you do not have a good feeling about.



BECOME A "TELL-ABLE" ADULT

Create an environment of responsiveness and comfort so that children feel free to disclose. Create an environment that makes it clearly known that children will be listened to and believed. As youth workers (counselors, teachers, principals, catechists, priests, youth ministers, coaches), communicate the idea that children will be heard. Display posters, books, and pamphlets that indicate a level of sensitivity to child abuse. Intentionally raise the issues of "uncomfortable and confusing touches" with children. Invite them to tell you anything that may be bothering or troubling them.

Most of all, be in tune with children that are in your care.