



Honor Thy Children

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

TEAM
KENTUCKY

CABINET FOR HEALTH
AND FAMILY SERVICES

FAQ

WHEN REPORTING

Who should report suspected abuse or neglect of a child?

KRS 620.030(1) says anyone with a reasonable suspicion that a child is being abuse or neglected is required to make a report to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

Is there legal protection for reporting sources?

KRS 620.050(1) - Good Faith Immunity says 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.

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

KRS 620.072 - A school or childcare provider shall provide access to the child without parental consent.

Can a social worker just take a child out of the home?

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.

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.

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!

DYNAMICS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Child sexual abuse is the misuse of power through sexual means. Child sexual abuse generally involves a trusted adult (neighbors, parents, step-parents, aunts, uncles, teachers, priests, deacons, and coaches) who is in a relationship of power to the child and uses that position to manipulate children in order to satisfy the adult's own sexual needs. Abusers manipulate situations in order to create an atmosphere where sexualized contact can occur, such as opportunities to be alone with the child. They then work to gradually reduce the child's inhibitions to sexualized touch, while

simultaneously working to strengthen the child's trust. As the sexualized interaction between the adult and child becomes increasingly normalized,



the abuser pushes for more and more sexually gratifying interaction. The child is confused about the sexual violations because the adult abuser is someone that is in a

position of trust, and others tend to hold him or her in high regard. Furthermore, children are often told not to disobey or disrespect adults, especially those who are in positions of care.

The evolving sexually abusive relationship is maintained due to the power that the adult has in the relationship with the child. That power is utilized in making threats that ensure the child's secrecy. Secrecy, then, is the key to keeping sexual abuse private. The child is afraid to talk about what is going on to others, in part for fear that the threats will be carried out.

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.

Family members and caregivers of children also must be groomed as the child is being targeted. When the adult abuser resides outside the family, trust must be earned from the child's guardians in order to gain private access to the child.

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.

IMPORTANT
Trainings are scaled back in the summer due to vacations, etc. There is just one training in June and there will be no trainings in July. Trainings will ramp up in August, September and October.

6.13.23
St. Andrew Academy

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.

Do 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.

IMPORTANT

Think you're compliant but aren't sure? You can always check in with your school/parish safe environment coordinator to see if your dates are current.

SUMMER BREAK AND CYBER AWARENESS

The internet offers endless opportunities for learning, exploration, and connection, yet there are also hidden dangers that all parents and caregivers must be aware of as their children and teens go online. For some, the summer break means greater opportunities for unsupervised behavior. Our partners, the Kosair for Kids Face It Movement has collaborated with the Exploited Children's Help Organization (ECHO) to bring awareness to online risks and tips to prevent unsafe situations.

[The new resource - Cyber Safety 101: Keeping Our Kids Safe Online](#) - offers parents and caregivers critical definitions, topics to cover when talking with their children about being online, tips that promote safety, and information on how to report efforts to exploit a child online. "As more and more kids, including elementary-age students, enter the digital space, parents must be aware of the dangers and how to empower their child. By understanding terms such as the digital footprint and grooming, parents can begin to have open and honest conversations with their children and teens about what is and is not appropriate content, never giving out personal information, and never exchanging inappropriate photos," said Sonja Grey, executive director of ECHO. Cyber Safety 101 offers the following tips for what parents can do to keep their kids safe online:

Open Communication: It's

never too early or too late to start a dialogue with your child or teen about how to stay safe online. Assure your child that they can always come to you if they are ever in a situation that is uncomfortable or scary.

Set Boundaries: Clearly outline your expectations for their online interactions and communicate those expectations early and often. Create clear rules, such as setting a time each day that devices must be shut down and having devices in high-traffic areas of the home.

Take an Internet Safety Pledge: You and your child can co-create and take a pledge regarding online safety; there are several examples available.

Watch Out for Red Flags: Be on the lookout for signs that your child or teen may have been exposed to inappropriate content, such as anxiety, withdrawal, and referencing inappropriate topics.

Utilize Parental Controls: Use a parental control filter to help limit your child or teen's exposure to inappropriate content. "Kosair for Kids has spent 100 years focused on ensuring that every child can live life to the fullest, which includes protecting them from dangerous trends. The Cyber Safety 101 resource offers parents of younger and older children practical information and tips to prevent unsafe interactions and to recognize if their child has experienced exploitation online. We all play an

important role in protecting children, and child safety is an adult's responsibility. We are proud to play a role in this effort to give families the knowledge they need to keep their kids safe," said Barry Dunn, President and CEO of Kosair for Kids. "Kids are online for schoolwork, social media, gaming, and other entertainment - that's the reality. We must ensure our kids know what to do if they encounter a situation online that makes them uncomfortable. Thankfully there are tools out there to report online predators and remove photos of your child. This resource from the Face It Movement is another tool in that toolbox to keep children safe online," said Grey. Every adult in Kentucky is mandated to report child maltreatment to the Child Protection Hotline at 1-877-KYSAFE-1 or online. If someone sends your child photos or videos containing obscene content, speaks or writes to your child in a sexual manner, or asks to meet your child in person, call the CyberTipline at 1-800-THE-LOST or report it online.



MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

Summer is here, that means a break for Safe Environment Trainings. It also is a great time to evaluate if you will require Safe Environment Compliance in the fall.

With just one training in June, trainings will pick back up with several available starting in August and running through the fall and into the winter.

Remember, all people working with children must complete an initial in-person training at any of the Archdiocese of Louisville scheduled training courses. After that, a person is required to complete a five-year refresher training either online or any of the in-person training.

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. Thanks! Should you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to



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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

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.

HOME ALONE?



IS MY CHILD READY TO... Stay home alone?

School-aged kids are more independent and confident and may ask to stay home alone. Before allowing your child to spend after school time or time while you run errands alone at home, they should know the following in case of an emergency:

- Has access to and knows how to use a phone as well as who to answer/not answer for.
- Knows what to do and who to call if there is a fire, a medical crisis, a suspicious stranger at the door, as well as where to find the first-aid supplies.
- Knows how to contact you.

Write down rules and responsibilities for the hours your child is home without supervision and hang them somewhere prominent, including:

- Are friends allowed over?
- Under what circumstances, if at all, should they answer the door?
- Which activities are off-limits, for example, are there channels that are off-limits to watching?

PARTNER IN THE
 **face it**
MOVEMENT TO END CHILD ABUSE

Courtesy of our partners with the "Face It Movement"