



Honor Thy Children

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

RECORD YEAR FOR SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAININGS

It was a record year for Safe Environment with over 3,600 people trained at various locations throughout the Archdiocese of Louisville. Again, anyone 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 reach out. Many ask why the training? This training emerged from the reforms of 2002 contained in the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which sought to address the terrible reports of priests and other Church leaders who abused children. No child should ever be abused, especially by someone whose task it is to nurture that child's faith. In

addition to many other reforms, the Charter very wisely called all U.S. dioceses to provide education and training on the issue of childhood sexual abuse for persons of all ages. Sexual abuse happens in all segments of society, and 80% of all abused children were abused by parents or other family members. The Church is a very large youth-serving organization. We know that one out of four girls and one out of six boys will be abused by the time they reach adulthood. Because we do live training in the Archdiocese, we are able to interact with thousands of individuals. After the training, we have people lining up to tell their stories. At one session, we were told of the arrest of a father who had been abusing his children because one of his adult children attended a safe environment training and felt empowered to report. Others talk to us about their abuse as children. They tell us how the class helped them to recognize that they need help, and we are able to refer them to the assistance they need. Many attendees who come in with skeptical expressions and crossed arms leave with heartfelt thanks for all they learned. This training also helps

adults who may not have experienced abuse in their own lives recognize the signs of abuse in children they may encounter, whether that abuse happens in the context of the Church, a sports program, or a neighborhood. Many adults are not fully aware of their responsibility to report. In this training, they learn of the mandated reporting laws for all adults in Kentucky to report child abuse, and they learn how to do it. The education and empowerment that results from this kind of training, as well as the education provided to children and youth, is one way that we can help to bring about systemic change to combat sexual abuse in our community. Trainings will break for the summer holiday in June, but will return with a full complement of sessions starting in August and running through the fall and winter. Once finalized, all trainings with their locations will be posted at www.archlou.org/safe.

Archdiocese of
Louisville

June/July
2023

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!

DO'S AND DONT'S

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 (but not limited to) the Archdiocese of Louisville's Code of Conduct reviewed at the initial in person training and 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. Below are some do's and don'ts for those working with children in the Archdiocese of Louisville. *(Obvious exceptions exist for employees and volunteers with families.)*

- Avoid physical contact when alone with a minor. Physical contact with young people can be misconstrued, especially in private settings.
- Report any suspected child abuse (sexual, physical, neglect) to the authorities.
- 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.
- Never share a bed with a minor.
- 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.
- Never use alcohol when engaged in ministering to minors.
- Never use, possess, or be under the influence of illegal drugs.
- Refrain from giving inappropriate or expensive gifts to young people.
- Ensure that all activities (extracurricular, catechetical, youth ministry, scouting, athletics, etc.) for which I am responsible have been approved in advance by the appropriate administrator.
- Have an adequate number of adults present at events. A minimum of two adults must always be present during activities for minors.
- 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.

UPCOMING TRAININGS

Safe Environment Trainings paused for most of July during the summer break.



A full compliment of trainings are back on schedule.

7.31.23
St. Martha

8.1.23
St. James (E-Town)

8.21.23
St. Gregory (Cox's Creek)

8.22.23
St. Aloysius-Peewee Valley

8.28.23
St. Dominic

9.5.23
Holy Spirit (Louisville)

9.6.23
Holy Trinity (Louisville)

9.18.23
St. Patrick

9.25.23
St. Andrew Academy

Be sure to bookmark
www.archlou.org/safe

Should any training be postponed or cancelled at the last minute, notice will be sent to the parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator and posted here

IMPORTANT

Due to the nature of material presented

NO child under the age of 16 will be admitted to any training

KSP AND PREVENT CHILD ABUSE KENTUCKY TEAM UP

Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky, in conjunction with the Kentucky State Police, released new resources to help parents, caregivers and professionals keep kids safe on the internet. June was National Internet Safety Month, dedicated to increasing Americans' understanding of cyberthreats and empowering them to be safer and more secure online.

The three new tipsheets cover internet safety, cyberbullying and gaming safety. The tipsheets are available free of charge on Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky's website and will be distributed statewide to organizations serving families and children.

"As the nation recognizes June as National Internet Safety Month, the Kentucky State Police Electronic Crime Branch joins Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky in notifying parents about the risks involved with social media, online gaming and other internet use by distributing strategies to protect their kids from harm and exploitation," said Lt. Mike Bowling, commander, Electronic Crime Branch Kentucky State Police.

"Unfortunately, the Electronic Crime Branch has seen an 82% increase nationally (2021-2022) in the number of online enticement complaints, which is mainly due to the alarming spike in reports involving financial sextortion. KSP has received 14,491 total CyberTips from the National Center for

Missing and Exploited Children for Kentucky, compared to 4,989 in 2021. Cybercrimes are on the rise which is why KSP has developed these guidelines to help Kentucky parents keep their kids protected from those who wish to do harm to our most vulnerable population. KSP remains committed to doing everything necessary to protect our children and reduce electronic crimes. To achieve this mission, KSP calls upon all Kentuckians to contact law enforcement immediately if illegal activity is suspected or you are notified of harm to our children."

Around 95% of teens have access to a smartphone, computer, tablet, gaming technology or other electronic device, making them a common and easily accessible tool for cyberbullying and exploitation. Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky has been advocating for internet safety awareness and education for more than 15 years. This work includes a free online training, Electronic Crimes Against Children: How to Educate, Monitor, and Communicate Internet Safety, that provides insight into how perpetrators groom children online and what parents and

caregivers can do to keep kids safe.

"Technology evolves so quickly, it is difficult for any caregiver to keep up with the latest potential threats or pitfalls facing kids online," said PCAK Executive Director Jill Seyfred. "That's why we work closely with the experts in the Electronic Crime Branch Kentucky State Police to ensure parents, school professionals and other caregivers know how to protect children and can effectively teach kids to protect themselves as well. We are proud to be at the forefront of this important work."

MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

Summer break! It's a time to recharge and relax. Most aren't thinking about Safe Environment.

With kids no longer in school, routines are different and people they hang out with can be different.

Now is a good time to take a look around and see who your children are around, who they're interacting with both in person & online. Don't be afraid to ask questions.



Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky

10 THINGS PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT INTERNET SAFETY

- Set boundaries inside the home:**
 - WHO a child communicates with.
 - WHAT technology children can use.
 - WHERE a child can go online.
 - WHEN a child can use technology.
- Teach children to protect their name, identity, and reputation while online.**
- Have hard conversations about sexting and cyberbullying.**
 - Positive actions produce positive results.

Website: www.pcak.org | 2265 Harrodsburg Road, Phone: 859.225.8879 | Ste. 200, Lexington, KY 40504

Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky

- Monitor children's electronic devices and online activities.**
 - Be involved, but don't spy.
- Establish "screen time" limits in the home.**
- Keep electronics in a secured area of the home at nighttime.**
- Start Early: talk to children about online safety by age 7 or younger if a child has internet access.**
 - 40% of teens think it is normal for people their age to share explicit images with each other.
- Listen Often: listen with empathy and understanding to establish trust.**
- Avoid Shame: teach children it is NEVER their fault if someone abuses, betrays, or tricks them.**
- REMEMBER! Online predators sound nice and eagerly try to establish an online relationship with children.**

To report online child sexual exploitation, call 1-800-THE LOST or make an online report at report.cybertip.org.

1.800.CHILDREN
A free, confidential information and support helpline

**Archdiocese of Louisville
Office of Safe Environment**

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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.

Archdiocese of Louisville Counseling Referral Services (Family Ministries Office)

Provides services and assistance through the Victim Assistance Coordinator to those who report that they have been abused by a Church employee (victimassistance@archlou.org); provides counseling referrals to individuals, couples, and families; and coordinates safe environment programming for the Archdiocese (safe@archlou.org). www.ArchLou.org/Family

502.636.1044



HELP IS AVAILABLE

Martine Siegel, the Archdiocese of Louisville Victim Assistance Coordinator is available to answer any questions you have regarding resources available

502.636.1044
msiegel@archlou.org

Family & Children's Place

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

502.893.3900

Treatment and Counseling for Victims
UofL Peace Hospital - **502.451.3330**
The Brook Hospitals - **502.426.6380** - **KMI**
502.896.0495 - **Dupont**
Norton Children's Hospital
(Ackerly Unit) - **502.629.8000**

NAMI - The National Alliance on Mental Illness

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

502.588.2008