



Honor Thy Children

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

HOLIDAY GATHERINGS

The holidays are a time when many families look forward to getting together for holiday cheer. Something not on the minds of many is child sexual abuse. No one wants to play scrooge when it comes to planning, but being aware heading into large holiday gatherings will go a long way to ensuring children are safe.

Below are some helpful tips as you head into those holiday gatherings.

Have a chat with your child before guests arrive. Is there anyone that makes them feel uncomfortable (for any reason)? Let them know that everyone (even family) are expected to treat them with respect and they can come talk about anyone's behavior.

Create a code word. Being able to communicate inappropriate behavior is key. For example, you can have your child say something "I need my medicine" or "Do you know where my (insert favorite toy) is?" Anything a child is comfortable and know you'll respond to.

Don't force the hug. Things like hugging and kissing are very intimate signs of affection. You shouldn't be surprised if your child has reservations about embracing family they don't see often. Alternatives can include a wave, high five or even a fist bump. Letting children choose to be affectionate is empowering.

Avoid letting kids play behind closed doors. While we all like to keep the noise to a "dull roar" situations where adults or kids are alone with younger children should be kept to a minimum if not eliminated. You should also make it a point to check in often and keep tabs on what's going on.

Be sure to take mental notes during your gathering. Is there someone who touches, tickles or wrestles with children even when they don't like it? Is there a teen or adult that likes to spend more time with kids than people their own age? It is your right to speak up for a child who appears uncomfortable.

It's always a good idea to check in at the end of the night once the dust has settled and ask your child if they had fun. Are they eager to talk about things or are they dismissive? This could be a sign they're upset and reason to talk more.

Archdiocese of
Louisville

NOVEMBER
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.pccain.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!

WHAT IS CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE?

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 increase¹. 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 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.

Child sexual abusers are neighbors, parents, step-parents, aunts, uncles, teachers, priests, deacons, and coaches - people we least expect to harm children. There are two basic forms of child molesters: A preferential child molester and a situational child molester. A preferential child molester is a pedophile. Pedophiles have a true sexual preference for children before they reach the age of puberty. Preferential child molesters gain ready access to children by virtue of their occupations such as teacher, day care worker, nanny, coach, or youth worker. Pedophiles usually have multiple victims and often collect child pornography. Situational child molesters may not have a true sexual preference for children, but engage in sex with children because of the availability of a child and/or their own feelings of inadequacy.

UPCOMING TRAININGS

After a record setting fall, there will be one more training before the end of the year.

12.11.23

St. Bernard (Louisville)

Please know trainings are being scheduled for January, February & March.

Once finalized they will be posted at

www.archlou.org/safe

It is strongly advised that you not wait to attend a scheduled in person training if required to do so as trainings are subject to cancellation or postponement due to inclement weather.

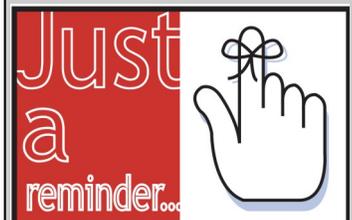
Be sure to bookmark www.archlou.org/safe for the latest status or changes in any training

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

IMPORTANT

Due to the nature of material presented

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



MYTH V. TRUTH

Myth: Strangers are responsible for most child abuse.

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

Myth: Most sexual abusers are homosexuals.

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

Myth: Children usually lie about sexual abuse.

Fact: 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.



EXAMPLES OF WHAT IS FOUND IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE CODE OF CONDUCT

ARE YOU COMPLIANT?

- 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.
- 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 minor.
- 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

Do's & 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.

The Archdiocese "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.

These are only a few examples. Please consult the "Restoring Trust" booklet given at your in person training or you can find on online here

<https://www.archlou.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Restoring-Trust-Web-2023-1.pdf>

**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.

IN PERSON SAFE ENVIRONMENT WORKSHOPS

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. 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.

The Safe Environment Program will cover the following topics:

- 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
- How to take action in response to child sexual abuse, including obligation to report and caring for the abused child
 - Becoming familiar with new archdiocesan policies and Code of Conduct regarding work with children
- Participants will receive 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.

Children under the age of 16 will NOT be enrolled into the Safe Environment Training Program (nor should anyone under the age of 18 be considered an adult or placed in unsupervised environments requiring the adult supervision of minors). Any person 18 or older who is in a supervisory role with children MUST have a criminal background check.

You must arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the workshop start time listed for all locations in order to complete the paperwork. Failure to do so will result in you having to take the class again. 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.

