



Honor Thy Children

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

A RECORD 2023, ARE YOU READY FOR 2024?

The fall Safe Environment Training schedule saw a record number of participants attend Safe Environment trainings throughout the Archdiocese of Louisville! While a new round of volunteers and employees are compliant, are you?

The Archdiocese of Louisville provides a safe and secure environment for children and youth who participate in church-related activities, whether they are studying, worshipping, or engaging in other activities. To ensure this, all employees or

volunteers who encounter children or youth (18 years old or younger) for any length of time must attend one of the two-hour Safe Environment Training Workshops as part of the commitment to fulfill the goal.

Archdiocese of Louisville

January 2024

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

SAFE ENVIRONMENT COMPLIANCE

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

IN PERSON INITIAL ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE TRAINING

+

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE ISSUED BACKGROUND CHECK

0-5 years

IN PERSON ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE TRAINING OR ON-LINE REFRESHER

+

(UPDATED) ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE ISSUED BACKGROUND CHECK

Every 5 years



It's that simple! This training will ensure you...

- Identify signs of child sexual abuse
- Understand the dynamics of child sexual abuse, including how children are groomed and how they may attempt to reveal their experience.
- Know how to act in response to child sexual abuse, including the obligation to report and care for the abused child.
- Are familiar with new archdiocesan policies and Code of Conduct regarding work with children

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!

WHY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING?

There are several reasons why safe environment training has been so valuable for our Catholic community. This training emerged from the reforms of 2002 contained in the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People,

four girls and one out of six boys will be abused by the time they reach adulthood. Even if a priest never abused any children, we should be doing this training anyway. Because we do live training in the Archdiocese, we can interact with thousands of

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



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

individuals (more than 61,000 since the training started in 2003). 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 can refer them to the assistance they need. Many attendees who come in with skeptical expressions and crossed

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.

UPCOMING TRAININGS

2.5.24
St. Joseph (Bardstown)

2.12.24
St. Andrew Academy

3.18.24
St. Margaret Mary

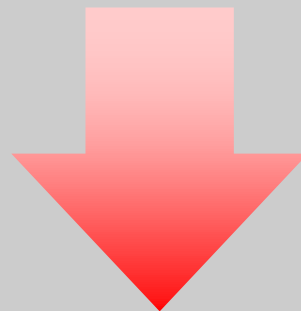
3.19.24
St. Albert

Additionally trainings are being finalized for April and into May and will be published at www.archlou.org/safe once confirmed

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 and posted on the website



IMPORTANT

Due to the nature of material presented

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

NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO CHECK YOUR COMPLIANCE

See your school/parish Safe Environment Coordinator today and ensure your dates are documented and make plans to update accordingly. There are times when trainings may need to be rescheduled due to inclement weather.

As stated in KRS 620.030, "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 the Kentucky state police, the cabinet or its designated representative, or the Commonwealth's attorney by telephone or otherwise."



KENTUCKY
Cabinet for Health and
Family Services

1-877-KYSAFE-1

When making a report you'll need to provide the following information:

- The child's age.
- The names and addresses of the child and his or her parents or other persons who have custodial responsibility for the child.
- The nature and extent of the child's suspected dependency, neglect, or abuse, including any previous charges of dependency, neglect, or abuse, if known.
- The name and address of the person who is allegedly responsible for the abuse or neglect
- Any other information that will be helpful to the child abuse investigator.



Offer support to the caregivers (parent/guardians) of the abused child. The caregiver is probably hearing these allegations for the first time and will likely be very distressed. Caregivers will feel a great deal of guilt, anger, confusion, pain, and betrayal. Inform them as to what you know and have done. Listen to their fears and concerns and assist them by providing the names of community resources.

If one of the caregivers is the one alleged to have abused the child, he or she will be defensive and angry. Do not confront the alleged caregiver about the abuse. Allow law enforcement personnel and investigators to handle this.

Your responsibility is to ensure the safety of the child.

Archdiocese of Louisville
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.

PREVENTING ABUSE: COMMUNICATION IS KEY

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," and "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 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.

More importantly, 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 known that children will be listened to and believed in. 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 bother or trouble them. Most of all, be in tune with the children that are in your care.