



Honor Thy Children

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

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

You don't have to wait to get safe environment compliant. Many times volunteers are asked at the last minute to work with children, and unfortunately for those who aren't compliant, that could mean not being allowed to participate in parish or school activities.

COMPLIANCE MEANS

ATTENDANCE AT AN ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE
(IN PERSON TRAINING)

Please note, trainings are limited in July and will pick back up in August

A FIVE YEAR REFRESHER TRAINING IS COMPLETED
(WHEN REQUIRED)

AN ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE ISSUED BACKGROUND CHECK
(NOT OLDER THAN FIVE YEARS)

Don't be left out!
**Reach out to your parish/school
safe environment coordinator *today*
and ensure your compliance is
documented!**



Archdiocese of
Louisville

APRIL
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

**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!

HOW CHILDREN ARE EFFECTED BY ABUSE

Children are individuals, and each is affected differently by abuse. Several people could have the trauma of sexual abuse occur in their lives,

severity of threats used to maintain secrecy, relationship to the abuser, the number of perpetrators, and age at the time of disclosure as

healthy and productive life. The effects of abuse are unpredictable, and all individuals need support and compassion as they find their unique paths to healing. It's important to remember that the younger the age of the child at the onset and the longer the duration of the sexual abuse, the more severe the effects of sexual abuse. Also, the closer the relationship of the child to the abuser, the larger the impact on the child. Finally, negative, and non-supportive reactions from persons to whom children disclose (disbelief, denial, making excuses) cause negative effects on how the children respond as well as on their healing process.



but everyone will respond and react in varying ways according to his or her personality, family of origin, support systems, gender, age at the time of the abuse, and many other variables too numerous to list. Other factors that impact the magnitude of the damage include duration of abuse, level of intrusiveness/violation of the abuse, type, and

well as reactions to disclosure. It is never appropriate to try to predict how a child may be affected by sexual abuse. What someone may deem "mild" sexual abuse may traumatize a child for the rest of his or her life. Another child who suffered from what others may describe as "severe" abuse, may, with proper care, heal and live a



UPCOMING TRAININGS

5.7.24

St. James (E-Town)

5.9.24

St. Margaret Mary

6.10.24

St. Francis Xavier-Mt. Washington

6.11.24

Sacred Heart Schools (Ursuline Arts Center)

6.26.24

Flaget Center

Additionally trainings are being finalized for July, August and September. They 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 TO REMEMBER

Adult abusers often distort love and affection to increase children's vulnerability. Abusers often redefine their actions as "natural expressions of love," suggesting that they are doing these things "for the child's good" including describing their actions as a form of "sex education." Such re-definitions reinforce the confusion that children feel and further cause them to doubt their own "uh-oh" feelings. Children are accustomed to the idea that something that pains them is good for them, i.e. getting a shot or a spanking. Adult abusers use these same arguments to justify and explain their behavior.

FOR ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE ON RED FLAGS, FEEL FREE TO CONTACT MARTINE SIEGEL, ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR AT 502.636.1044 OR VIA EMAIL (MSIEGEL@ARCHLOU.ORG)

DO'S & DON'TS OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT

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 examples of what is acceptable and not acceptable when working with minors within the Archdiocese of Louisville. This "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. Should you have any questions regarding any situation feel free to reach out to

Scott Fitzgerald,
Archdiocese of Louisville
Coordinator of Safe
Environment Services.

Email:
sfitzgerald@archlou.org

Phone
502.471.2132



- 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 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.
- 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 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 is 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.
- Never engage in the physical discipline of minors or in a discipline that frightens or degrades them. Discipline should be handled in coordination with a supervisor and parents.

CONSULT THE LATEST EDITION OF THE "RESTORING TRUST" BOOKLET FOR MORE GUIDANCE

A COPY CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.ARCHLOU.ORG

**Archdiocese of Louisville
Office of Safe Environment**

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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.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Archdiocese of Louisville Counseling Referral Services (Family Ministries Office)

(502) 636-1044 (www.ArchLou.org/Family)

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).

Victim Assistance Coordinator
Counseling Referrals
Safe Environment Coordinator

Center for Women and Families

(844) 237-2331 Toll Free Crisis Line (www.TheCenterOnline.org)

Provides services to victims of sexual abuse and violence in the Kentucky counties of Bullitt, Henry, Jefferson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, and Trimble.

Family & Children's Place

(502) 893-3900 (www.FamilyAndChildrensPlace.org)

Broad-based family counseling programs serving child and adult victims of violence and families in which a child has been sexually abused by an adult family member or adolescent.

Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs (KASAP)

(502) 226-2704 or (866) 375-2727 Toll Free (www.KASAP.org)

Network of Rape Crisis Programs in Kentucky.

NAMI - The National Alliance on Mental Illness

(502) 588-2008 (www.namilouisville.org)

Offers support to individuals suffering from mental illness and their families. This may include abuse, PTSD, anxiety, and depression. Services include support groups for the community as well as education.