

ARCHDIOCESAN RESPONSE TO SEXUAL ABUSE

The “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” provides a comprehensive framework for addressing allegations of sexual abuse and for creating safe environments in parishes and schools, and it directs all sexual abuse policies and procedures in the Archdiocese of Louisville. In October 2009, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops audited our diocese for the sixth time and as was determined in each previous audit, the Archdiocese of Louisville was found to be fully compliant with all elements of the Charter with no required changes or recommendations for changes.

PREVENTION/EDUCATION

- 3,842 employees and volunteers participated in safe environment programming, bringing the total trained to more than 22,600. Workshops continue to be offered each month throughout the Archdiocese.
- All parishes and schools were audited, and all updated the comprehensive database that tracks criminal background records checks and verification of attendance at safe environment training sessions for all employees and volunteers who work with children and youth.
- Extensive materials are available online to provide information on child abuse prevention, resources for parents, and safe environment programs. See archlou.org/restoringtrust.
- Presentations and workshops on sexual abuse and related issues are offered to parishes and other organizations as requested.

SEXUAL ABUSE REVIEW BOARD

- The Review Board reviews past and present cases and monitors the implementation of our sexual abuse policies.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND OUTREACH

- The victim assistance coordinator, Dr. Tom Robbins, meets and assists victims/survivors. He can be reached by calling 502/636-1044 or emailing trobbsins@archlou.org. The Archdiocese continues to offer counseling assistance and other support to victims/survivors.

COOPERATION WITH CIVIL AUTHORITIES

- Any report or suspicion of child abuse is reported immediately to civil authorities, and the Archdiocese cooperates fully with any investigation.

PRIEST ASSIGNMENT AND STATUS

In 2009 Father James Schook was removed from ministry after several adults came forward and reported being sexually abused as teenagers. After completing an investigation in early 2010, the Sexual Abuse Review Board of the Archdiocese recommended that Fr. Schook be removed permanently from ministry and directed to lead a life of prayer and penance. Archbishop Kurtz accepted this recommendation and directed Fr. Schook not to celebrate Mass publicly, administer the sacraments, wear clerical garb, present himself publicly as a priest, and/or have any unsupervised contact with minors.

SEXUAL ABUSE EXPENDITURES

We have pledged to be accountable for the financial costs of sexual abuse. The following is a summary of funds expended from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010:

Counseling Fees and Support for Victims/Survivors	\$ 4,052
Legal Fees	\$ 2,530
Prevention/Education	\$26,901
TOTAL	\$33,483