



Honor Thy Children

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

WELCOME BACK!

Prevention starts with understanding

It's welcome back to school this month! It's also a time when more adults are working with children in our schools and parishes. Unfortunately it's also a time when suspected child abuse can be noticed. What would you do if you

suspected abuse? What if someone told you they suspected abuse? What are the policies and procedures are those working with children bound to uphold as a volunteer or staff mem-

ber within the Archdiocese of Louisville. The Commonwealth of Kentucky is a mandatory reporting state when it comes to reporting abuse. That means if you suspect abuse and don't report it, you can be held accountable under the law.

Because of the many programs and services the Archdiocese of Louisville parishes and schools sponsor we are a major youth-serving organization in our

community. That means we must model effective safeguards and proactive initiatives when we work with children. These are discussed in the Archdiocese of Louisville's Safe Environment Course titled "Honor Thy Children"



During this training participants will learn how to identify signs of child sexual abuse as well as understand the dynamics of child sexual abuse, including how children are groomed and how they may attempt to reveal their experience. Also important participants will come away knowing to take action in response to child sexual abuse, including obligation to report and caring for

the abused child. When the training is concluded, participants will have an understanding of archdiocesan policies and Code of Conduct regarding work with children.

In addition to the training **EVERYONE** working on a regular basis with children **MUST** have a had a background check completed within the **last five years**. You can find a complete listing of all scheduled trainings at www.archlou.org/safe and on page 2 of this newsletter.

If you are unsure of your status please reach out to your parish/school Safe Environment coordinator who can assist you.

If you do not know who your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator is contact Scott Fitzgerald, Coordinator of Safe Environment Services for the Archdiocese of Louisville via email (fitzgerald@archlou.org) or phone (502.471.2132) and he can also assist you.

Archdiocese of Louisville

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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

Signs of Possible Sexual Abuse

- Unexplained pain, itching, redness or bleeding in the genital area
- Increased nightmares or bedwetting
- Withdrawn behavior
- Angry outbursts/mood swings
- Loss of appetite or difficulty swallowing
- Sudden/unexplained avoidance of certain people or places
- Sexual knowledge, language or behavior that is unusual for the child's age.

ABUSE REPORTS RISE IN AUGUST

Child abuse cases tend to rise in late July and early August as kids head back to school and more eyes are able to identify signs of possible abuse. Parish/School staff or volunteers are often the front lines when it comes to identifying abuse. Just three years ago Kentucky ranked 2nd in the nation in child abuse per 1000 kids. Would you know abuse if you saw it? Awareness starts with the youngest and the TEN-4 bruising rule: Children

under age 4 should not have bruising on the Torso, Ears or Neck. Infants too young to crawl should never have any bruises. If you see these bruises, there is concern the child may have experienced abuse and you can do something before it's too late. As children get older abuse may appear in many different forms. Below is a break out of different types of (but not limited to) abuse and signs to be aware of.

4 MAIN TYPES OF ABUSE

<u>PHYSICAL ABUSE</u>	<u>SEXUAL ABUSE</u>
<p>Occurs when a child is purposely physically injured or put at risk of harm by another person.</p> <p><u>Possible signs include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unexplained injuries, such as bruises, fractures or burns - Injuries that don't match the given explanation - Untreated medical or dental problems 	<p>Any sexual activity with a child, such as fondling, oral-genital contact, intercourse or exposure to child pornography.</p> <p><u>Possible signs include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sexual behavior or knowledge that's inappropriate for the child's age - Trouble walking or sitting or complaints of genital pain - Abuse of other children sexually
<u>NEGLECT</u>	<u>EMOTIONAL ABUSE</u>
<p>Child neglect is failure to provide adequate food, shelter, affection, supervision, education or medical care.</p> <p><u>Possible signs include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor growth or weight gain - Eating a lot in one sitting or hiding food for later - Poor record of school attendance - Lack of appropriate attention for medical, dental or psychological problems 	<p>Injuring a child's emotional well-being by continued verbal assault or belittling. Isolating, ignoring or rejecting a child apply as well.</p> <p><u>Possible signs include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delayed or inappropriate emotional development - Loss of self-confidence or self-esteem - Social withdrawal or a loss of interest or enthusiasm - Avoidance of certain situations, such as refusing to go to school or ride the bus - Desperately seeks affection

UPCOMING TRAININGS

A current list of trainings is always available at www.archlou.org/safe
All trainings are at 6:30p unless otherwise indicated.

9.6.18

*Catholic Enrichment Center
(3146 West Broadway, Louisville)*

9.10.18

St. Dominic (Springfield)

9.13.18

(SPANISH SPEAKING ONLY)

St. Rita

9.17.18

St. Mary Academy

9.20.18

St. Rita

(ENGLISH SPEAKING)

9.24.18

St. Martin of Tours

9.27.18

St. Augustine (Lebanon)

10.1.18

St. Francis Xavier (Mt. Washington)

10.4.18

St. Agnes

10.8.18

*Christ the Healer (Edmonton, KY)
(6:30 PM - CENTRAL TIME)*

10.15.18

Nativity Academy

Keep checking

www.archlou.org/safe for updates as trainings cancelled due to inclement weather will be posted here

SPORTS AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT

August also means a return to the school sports season. According to ChildHelp.com abuse occurs in **all sports**. Studies indicate **40% to 50%** of athletes have experienced anything from mild harassment to severe abuse. Research suggests that sexual abuse in sports impacts between 2% to 8% of all athletes. It is the responsibility of all athletic directors to ensure all coaches, assistant coaches and volunteers have

completed the required Safe Environment course and have a current background check that is not older than 5 years. Preventing abuse in sport requires both the parent and the school's athletic staff to be proactive. Below are some helpful tips for all before each sports season.

HOW CAN I BE PROACTIVE IN PREVENTING ABUSE IN SPORTS?

School Athletic Directors and Assistant Athletic Directors

- Prior to each season identify that season's sports and ALL coaches.
- Liaison with your school's Safe Environment Coordinator to ensure all coaches have a current background check not older than five years and certify they have attended the Archdiocese of Louisville's "Honor Thy Children" Safe Environment Course.
- Identify any "potential coaches" and vacancies that need to be filled and follow up on a periodic basis to ensure those coaches are compliant prior to coaching.

Parents

- Be aware of your coach's style, especially if your child is new to the team, moved up a level or the team has a new coach.
- Know the practice schedule. Stick around for a while or arrive early to the end of practice. *(Try to minimize phone time, when you're engaged fully you're open to receiving cues from your child you might not normally notice.)*
- Encourage your child to speak up when they get that feeling in their gut that something just isn't right.
- Don't be afraid to ask if your child's coaches are compliant with the Archdiocese of Louisville's Safe Environment program. Having an open conversation ensures that everyone is on the same page and are prepared to hold the other accountable.

Should you have questions regarding Safe Environment and athletics please feel free to reach out to:

Martine Siegel
Archdiocese of Louisville Victim Assistance Coordinator
502.636.1044 or via email msiegel@archlou.org

MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

We receive questions everyday regarding Safe Environment, many of which are repeat questions.

We always encourage you send us (or call) with ANY questions you may have. Some those are

Q. I attended a Safe Environment Program at another diocese in another town. Will you accept that in place of the Archdiocese of Louisville's "Honor Thy Children" training?

A. We cannot as we review policies and procedures specific to the Archdiocese of Louisville. This includes our code of conduct.

Q. How long is the training and do I need to register?

A. The trainings are two hours and you must stay for the entire session to receive full credit. No you do not have to register, just show up.

Q. At what minimum age is an individual to have a background check?

A. No one under the age of 18 can have a background check run. If a member is 18 and still in high school, that member is considered a minor until they have graduated. Which means they cannot be alone with children nor placed in a supervisory position.

**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 or the Chancery at 502/585-3291.

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.

SUMMER SAFE ENVIRONMENT SETS RECORD

Safe Environment Trainings aren't just for the school year. This summer alone over 900 people participated in the Archdiocese of Louisville's "Honor Thy Children" course that teaches those who work with children on a regular basis how to identify signs of child sexual abuse and how to take action in response to abuse. This course (and a background check) is mandatory for anyone working with children on a regular basis.



Nearly 200 participants packed the Holy Spirit cafeteria for a training this summer

For an updated list of current trainings, please visit www.archlou.org/safe