



Honor Thy Children

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

PREVENTING ABUSE: JUST TALK ABOUT IT

Prevention starts with understanding

When it comes to preventing child sexual abuse, simply talking with your child is one of the most effective ways to protect them. Talking with children in age appropriate ways about sometimes difficult topics such as our bodies and sex help them understand healthy relationships. They also learn it's ok to say "no" leaving them less vulnerable to abusers.

TALKING TO CHILDREN

- Tell children that it is "against the rules" for adults to act in a sexual way with them. Use examples and show them what parts of their bodies are off limits
- Remind them an abuser may be might be an adult friend, family member, or even older youth
- Trust yourself. If something seems wrong with a specific adult ask your child about it.



UNDERSTAND WHY CHILDREN ARE AFRAID TO TELL

- The abuser will shame the child by saying THEY let it happen and the parents will be angry
- Abusers are often very manipulative and will confuse children into what is right and wrong, calling it a game.
- Some children are ashamed of what happened
- When the abuser is a trusted person, some don't want to see the abuser get into trouble.
- Many children are afraid of disrupting the family.



UNDERSTAND HOW CHILDREN COMMUNICATE

- Children who disclose do so often with someone other than a parent. This is why training for people who work with children is so important.
- Children may tell only a portion to gauge an adult reaction
- Children tend to shut down if they encounter an emotional or negative reaction.



It's not just about talking with children. Talk with other adults about sexual abuse. You build support and mutual learning by just talking about it while raising consciousness in your community. You could unknowingly be offering support to someone whose child is experiencing abuse. More importantly you are putting potential abusers on notice that you are paying attention!

Archdiocese of Louisville

Volume VII Issue I

April 2019

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- Withdrawn behavior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.

NON-CONTACT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline receives reports regarding suspected child sexual exploitation, including "sextortion", a new online exploitation crime directed towards children in which non-physical forms of coercion are used, such as blackmail, to acquire sexual content from the child, engage in sex with the child, or obtain money from the child.

In October 2013, NCMEC began tracking this disturbing new form of

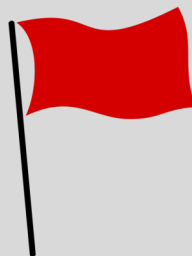
online sexual victimization of children and NCMEC has seen a dramatic increase in sextortion cases being reported. Based on reports made to NCMEC, they've learned that children who are victimized are often targeted and blackmailed by an individual they met online and who had obtained a sexual image from the child through deceit, coercion, or some other method.

THOSE INVOLVED OFTEN...

- Approach a child on social media after using it to learn about the child's interests, friends, school, family, etc.
- Intentionally move their communications with the child from one online platform to another (e.g., moving from social media to private video chat or messaging apps)

They can also use tactics to coerce a child, including:

- Reciprocation ("I'll show you, if you show me")
- Initially offering something to the child, such as money or drugs, in exchange for sexually explicit photos/videos
- Pretending to work for a modeling agency to obtain sexual images of the child
- Developing a bond with the child by establishing a friendship/romantic relationship
- Secretly recording sexually explicit videos of the child during video chats
- Physically threatening to hurt or sexually assault the child or the child's family members
- Using multiple online identities to contact a child
- Pretending to be younger and/or a member of the opposite sex
- Accessing the child's online account without authorization and stealing sexual images or videos of the child
- Threatening to create sexual images or videos of the child using digital-editing tools
- Threatening to commit suicide if the child does not provide sexual images or videos
- Saving sexually explicit conversations with the child and threatening to post them online



In just three years (2013-2016) the NCMEC tip line received 1,428 reports of sextortion of minors. Of those reports 78% involved female while 15% involved male. In the remaining reports the gender could not be determined. The ages ranged from as young as 7 to as old as 17.

Those engaged in sextortion have three main objectives. One, to acquire increasingly more explicit sexual content of the child. Two, obtain money or goods from the child and

three, to meet in order to engage in sex with the child. If you think someone may be or could have been a victim of sextortion you can make a CyberTipline Report by visiting report.cybertip.org.

UPCOMING TRAININGS

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

5.6.19

St. Martha

8.12.19

St. Gregory (Cox's Creek)

8.26.19

St. Dominic

9.9.19

St. Nicholas Academy

9.19.19

St. Augustine (Lebanon)

More trainings are being scheduled for May, June and July and into August.

Keep checking

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

CODE OF CONDUCT

Anyone who works regularly with children within the Archdiocese of Louisville must complete the "Honor Thy Children" Safe Environment Training and have a current background check not older than five years.

Parents of children are encouraged to ask their parish/school if those working with their children have satisfied these requirements. By completing the Safe Environment Training persons certify they will:

- Maintain a professional role and be aware of the trust and power they possess as a minister to young people.
- Have an adequate number of adults present at events. A minimum of two adults must always be present during activities for minors.
- Avoid driving alone in a vehicle with a young person.

These are just a few. The entire code is reviewed at any one of the Safe Environment Trainings.

CHILD ABUSE SURVIVOR SPEAKS

ARTICLE CREDIT—
WWW.KWCH.COM

WICHITA, Kan. April is National Child Abuse Awareness Month and with that, a Wichita woman shares her story of abuse, hoping it encourages victims to make their voices heard and to get the help they need.

Kayli Leach was sexually abused by her mother's boyfriend daily for about eight years. It's taken her years to get to the point where she can openly share her story. She credits much of her ability to talk about her experience now to therapy and resources she received at Wichita's Child Advocacy Center. But she remembers what it was like to feel alone and to feel like nobody would believe her story.

Eventually, her mother found out about the abuse and brought it to the surface.

That's how Leach ended up at the child advocacy center where she met Ericka Purcell, her therapist. Leach and Purcell are friends today, enjoying time to laugh and catch up.

But about six years ago, they met under very different circumstances.

"(Leach) came to the center as a victim and began her journey through therapy and some other services that we provide here," Purcell says.

Leach was 16 years old when she met Purcell.

"I felt like a 5-year-old," she says. In her situation, she says finding someone to talk to and help her recover from the trauma was crucial. This is where Purcell came in. "It's so important to find someone that you do trust in your life to talk to and sometimes that can be the scariest thing you've ever had to do," Purcell says.

For Leach, the fear of not being believed came with embarrassment. This made it especially difficult for her to open up.

"He put a lot of stuff in my head, saying that no one would believe me," Leach says of the man who abused her. "That made me feel

really embarrassed, but don't feel like that. There's always going to be someone there to help you through it."

Now, Purcell and Leach want to send a message to other potential victims of abuse.

"You don't have to suffer your whole life just because you have been a victim," Purcell says. "You can live a very healthy life and there are people out there that are willing to help you reach that moment in your life."

She says Leach is proof that this is true.

"When I was younger, I thought this happened to everyone," Leach says of the abuse she faced. "As you get older, you realize that it doesn't and as you come out of it as I surfaced and went through therapy and came (to the advocacy center) I realized it does happen to a lot of people and you just don't realize it."

Purcell says there are some potential warning signs of abuse that parents can watch out for. These include sudden behavior changes or a child showing inappropriate or aggressive behavior.



MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

As many schools begin to wind down for the year many don't think about Safe Environment.

Ironically this is the BEST time to think about it and attend a training if you are required to.

Perhaps you're helping with Vacation Bible School. Are you compliant?

Anyone working regularly with children must have attended the training and have a background check no older than five years.

Are you compliant?



If you plan on working any summer events with youth or even think you'll be working in a position that requires you to be compliant, the summer is a good time to avoid the fall rush.

If you're unsure of your status check with your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator. If you don't know who that is, reach out to Scott Fitzgerald (fitzgerald@archlou.org) Archdiocese of Louisville Coordinator of Safe Environment Services who can tell you who to contact.

**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.

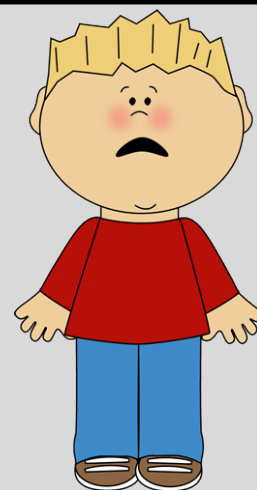
We hope that this information is helpful to all in our communities who are working to prevent and respond to childhood sexual abuse. Please let us know if you need further assistance or information by calling or emailing our victim assistance coordinator, Ms. Martine Siegel, at 502/636-1044; victimassistance@archlou.org or the Pastoral Center 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.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

When children are experiencing stressors such as divorce or death of a loved one, expect a change in their behavior. Children exhibit similar behavior changes when they are being sexually abused. No one behavioral change by itself indicates a child is being sexually abused, however a combination of these below symptoms should alert adults to the possibility of sexual abuse.

- ✓ Nightmares, trouble sleeping, fear of the dark or other sleeping problems
- ✓ Extreme fear of "monsters"
- ✓ "Spacing out" at odd times
- ✓ Loss of appetite, or trouble eating or swallowing
- ✓ Sudden mood swings: rage, fear anger or withdrawal
- ✓ Fear of certain people or places (e.g. a child may not want to be left alone with a babysitter, friend or relative, or some other child or adult)



These are just a few signs, a more thorough list is discussed in the Archdiocese of Louisville's Safe Environment Training. If you haven't attended a training or would simply like to refresh yourself on the signs of child abuse and what is required of you (by law), we encourage you to attend an upcoming training. A updated list of all trainings can be found at www.archlou.org/safe. Should you have any questions about child abuse and what to do when it comes to reporting, please feel free to contact Martine Siegel, Archdiocese of Louisville Victim Assistance Coordinator at 502.636.1044.