



Honor Thy Children

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

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020

As we bring to close the 2019 calendar year, now is the time to look ahead to next year.

Will you be working regularly with children when you return from the holiday break?

To be in compliance with the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young people you must have attended the Archdiocese of Louisville's Safe Environment Training and have a current background check not older than 5 years.

If you are unsure of your compliance status, reach out to your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator today and verify your status.

As a parent you have a right to know if your child's coach or organizational

supervisor are Safe Environment compliant. Feel free to reach out to your parish/school coordinator and ask if they are compliant.

Also field trip season will be upon us before too long. If you plan on chaperoning, now is the time to ensure your compliance. If needed make plans to attend an upcoming Safe Environment Training. Should you have any questions regarding Safe Environment Compliance don't hesitate to reach out to your local Safe Environment Coordinator or Scott Fitzgerald, Archdiocese of Louisville Coordinator of Safe Environment Services at fitzgerald@archlou.org or 502.471.2132.

REMINDER

At the end of each training participants are given instructions on how to notify their home parish that they've attended the training.

It is the parish/school's responsibility to document both the member's Safe Environment Training date and current background check date

Failure by either may result in delays in verifying Safe Environment compliance.



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

DYNAMICS OF CHILD ABUSE: GROOMING

Abusers gain a child's cooperation through manipulation, threats, and bribery. The initial stages of abuse involve subtle, seemingly innocent actions that prey upon a child's lack of knowledge and maturity to violate normal boundaries. This process of manipulating children to become increasingly comfortable with the violations of their boundaries is termed "grooming." Grooming begins with indirect violations that are difficult to identify as preludes to sexual abuse. Such things as tickling a child, hugging a child, or patting the child's backside may not be abusive but could serve as the beginning of the grooming process. For the adult abuser, these interactions are sexually charged. Children, having no experience with the notion of "sexually charged" experiences, are unable to put words to what is happening. They only know that something is a "little weird." This awkward experience is called an "uh-oh" feeling and is often described in safe-touch programs for children. The "uh-oh" feeling is confusing, because of the trust that the child feels for the adult. Children also tend to discount their own "uh-oh" feelings because the abuser uses minimization to justify his or her violations.

Are You Safe Environment Compliant?

Are you working regularly with children?

If so you must have attended an Archdiocese of Louisville Safe Environment Training.

You must also have a satisfactory background check not older than 5 years.

See your Safe Environment Coordinator today to verify your compliance!

THE SAFE ENVIRONMENT CODE OF CONDUCT: HOW FAMILIAR ARE YOU WITH IT?

A common question many ask is "will my safe environment training from another diocese transfer?" Unfortunately the answer is no. Reason being is the Archdiocese of Louisville has a code of conduct that differs from other dioceses. By attending a Safe Environment Training you acknowledge that you have read and understand the Archdiocese of Louisville's code of conduct.

If you've already been to a training, try your hand at the below scenarios and test your knowledge of the code. If you haven't been to a training, give it a try as well and see how you do.

These and more topics are covered at each Safe Environment Training

required by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. Attendance at a training is subject to an annual audit at each parish/school. Volunteers and staff who have already been to a training are always welcome to drop in to any one of the scheduled trainings should you want a refresher. Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator or Archdiocese of Louisville Coordinator of Safe Environment Services, Scott Fitzgerald via email sfitzgerald@archlou.org or 502.471.2132.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT SCENARIOS

Flip to page 4 to see how you did

SCENARIO #1

I am a high school youth group advisor and I want to keep in touch with the students in our group so I friend them via my facebook and Instagram account.

SCENARIO #2

I was called at the last minute to take a child (other than my own) to an out of town youth event (sponsored by the parish) after the rest of the group left. I know the parents well but they couldn't get away from work to make the trip. The trip will require an over-night stay on the way. Is this ok?

SCENARIO #3

A high school student worked hard at helping me prepare a recent youth outing and mentioned they'd asked their parents for a rather expensive pair of headphones for Christmas. I would like to buy these for this student. Can I do that?

SCENARIO #4

I recently noticed a well liked teacher hugging students after private tutoring sessions. Is this ok?

UPCOMING TRAININGS

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

12.2.19

Assumption High School

12.3.19

Our Lady of Lourdes

1.13.20

St. Gabriel

1.27.20

St. Joseph School (Bardstown)

2.24.20

St. Paul School

More trainings are being scheduled for February, March and April.

They will be posted at www.archlou.org/safe

Keep checking this webpage for updates as trainings cancelled due to inclement weather will be posted here

Please note that due to the nature of material discussed at these trainings, children under 16 will not be allowed into the trainings and child care is not provided.

Also a friendly reminder that seating can fill up fast at some venues so it's recommended that you arrive about 15-20 minutes early.



WHEN A CHILD DOES DISCLOSE: WHAT SHOULD I DO?

First off, you **MUST** report! Kentucky is a mandatory reporting state! Call 1-877-KYSAFE1 to report ANY suspected abuse. 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," "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 own 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. How should you then 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 clearly known that children will be listened to and believed. As youth workers (counselors, teachers, principals, catechists, priests, youth ministers, coaches), communicate the idea that children will be heard. Intentionally raise the issues of "uncomfortable and confusing touches" with children. Invite them to tell you anything that may be bothering or troubling them. Most of all, be in tune with children that are in your care.

LOCAL RESOURCES FOR GETTING HELP

If you're looking for help when it comes to abuse, here are some community resources:

Center for Women and Families - (844) 237-2331 (Toll Free Crisis Line). *Provides services to victims of sexual abuse and violence in the Kentucky counties of Bullitt, Henry, Jefferson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, and Trimble.* www.TheCenterOnline.org
Crisis Hotline (Louisville) - 502.581.8222
Business Line (Louisville) - 502.581.7200

Family & Children's Place - (502) 893-3900. *Broad-based family counseling program serving child and adult victims of violence and families in which a child has been sexually abused by an adult family member or adolescent.* www.FamilyAndChildrensPlace.org

Feel free to contact Martine Siegel, Archdiocese of Louisville, Victim Assistance Coordinator, Archdiocese of Louisville 502.636.1044 or via email msiegel@archlou.org for additional resources.

MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

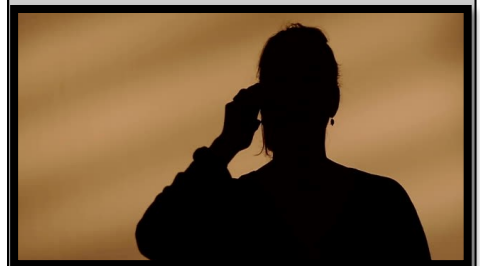
As the holiday season nears, it's important to remember many kids will be spending time outside of the classroom. Often school is where signs of abuse are most noticed.

Remember, when it comes to child abuse Kentucky is a mandatory reporting state.

If you suspect abuse is happening to a child you must report or you could be held accountable.

To report abuse call the Kentucky statewide hotline at

**1-877-
KYSAFE1**
(1-877-597-2331)



Should you have any questions about reporting or what you should do, feel free to reach out to:

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

"Children are the world's most valuable resource and it's best hope for the future"
- President John F. Kennedy

**Archdiocese of Louisville
Office of Safe Environment**

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Louisville, KY 40220

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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 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.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT SCENARIOS

How did you do?

SCENARIO #1

Page 37 of the Code of Conduct states "Exercise caution in communicating with young people through e-mail, through social media or through the internet. Only share work/ministry related e-mail addresses with minors. If you create a social media page specific to the parish/school sponsored event, "ensure it is approved and monitored by the appropriate administrator". Also "ensure that parents are informed about all social media communication utilized by the group/ministry in question". At no time should you friend them via your personal social media.

SCENARIO #2

The answer is no. Page 36 of the code of conduct specifically states "Never take an overnight trip alone with a minor"

SCENARIO #3

No. As per page 37 of the Code of Conduct, "Refrain from giving inappropriate or expensive gifts to young people".

SCENARIO #4

No it is not. Page 36 of the Code of Conduct says "Avoid physical contact when alone with a minor. Physical contact with young people can misconstrued, especially in private settings.

How did you do?

These are just a few of the many scenarios that are covered in the "Honor Thy Children" Safe Environment Training. If you work regularly with children and you've already taken the training, but want brush up on the what's required of you, you're always welcome to attend any of the scheduled trainings.

There's no registration required, all you need to do is show up!

For a list of current trainings visit:
www.archlou.org/safe

