



# Honor Thy Children

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

## WITH COVID-19 HERE, CONTROLLING PERSONAL ANGER BECOMES A PRIORITY

With the outbreak of COVID-19 the new norm has families staying at home for what could be an extended period of time. For most of us the time with our families is a welcome change from the hustle and bustle of normal life. Unfortunately, in close quarters over time the opportunity for abuse can go up exponentially. If you feel yourself getting angry or frustrated, there are ways

you decrease the potential for abuse. If at anytime you need help with abuse or have any questions, please feel free to pick up the phone and call Martine Siegel, Archdiocese of Louisville Victim Assistance Coordinator 502/636-1044 or if you prefer you can email her at [victimassistance@archlou.org](mailto:victimassistance@archlou.org)

### 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](http://www.pcaky.org) [www.pcaain.org](http://www.pcaain.org)
- ☺ Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline 800.4.A.CHILD 800.422.4453 [www.childhelp.org](http://www.childhelp.org)

### WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU FEEL YOURSELF GETTING CLOSE A BREAKING POINT

- Set limits BEFORE you get angry. The minute you start getting angry recognize you need to intervene. Understand what sets you off and develop a plan to address it when the need arises.
- Calm yourself down before taking action. Remember, stop, drop and breathe. Take a deep breath and remind yourself this isn't an emergency.
- Take a few minutes. Move away from your child physically. Tell yourself in a calm voice "I need to take a few minutes and calm down". This action doesn't mean your child has "won" it models self control.
- Make it a point to NEVER act while angry. Take a 10 minute time out to calm yourself. If after that 10 minutes you find yourself still upset don't hesitate to put the discussion off and agree to talk about it later. Then calmly talk with your child about setting limits.
- Avoid physical force no matter what. Spanking can ultimately sabotage everything positive that you do as a parent. Some research even indicates spanking can be addictive to some as it gives a way to discharge feelings and feel better.
- Avoid threats. Threats often made when angry are unreasonable. Given threats are only effective if you follow through with them, they can often undermine your authority making it less likely kids will follow your rules.

### 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!

# COVID-19 HAVING AN IMPACT ON REPORTING ABUSE

The COVID-19 outbreak is having an impact on those who report abuse and are charged with investigating reports.

Earlier this month Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear directed state child workers to limit contact with families they're investigating to "imminent risk or high-risk only circumstances"

"It's a step that we have to take," Beshear said at a recent press conference. "We are going to do our very best to make sure that we are there when those kids need us."

Typically with kids in school, teachers and other school staff can be on the look out for child abuse. With kids at home and limited local resources, identifying child abuse has become more

challenging.

Despite the COVID-19 outbreak, Kentucky still remains a mandatory reporting state when it comes to child abuse. Those who suspect abuse must report it by calling . (877) KYSAFE1.

If you suspect abuse, now more than ever you need to report it.

Should you have any questions, concerns or are unsure of what you need to report, the Archdiocese of Louisville Office of Safe Environment is open for business.

Feel free to reach out to Martine Siegel

at 502.636.1044 or email (msiegel@archlou.org)



## UPCOMING TRAININGS

In accordance with Archbishop Kurtz's guidance amid the Covid-19 outbreak, all Safe Environment Trainings have been put on hold until such time it's safe to conduct additional trainings.

The following trainings were scheduled prior to the Covid-19 outbreak and are currently scheduled but will be cancelled as necessary

5.4.20  
St. Gabriel

6.22.20  
Epiphany

8.10.20  
St. Gregory (Cox's Creek)

Keep checking  
[www.archlou.org/safe](http://www.archlou.org/safe)  
for updates or feel free to email Scott Fitzgerald, Archdiocese of Louisville Coordinator of Safe Environment Services  
(sfitzgerald@archlou.org).

## SIGNS OF POSSIBLE ABUSE

*It's important to remember that no one behavioral sign by itself indicates abuse, but a combination of them maybe be of concern.*

- Sudden mood swings: rage, fear, anger, or withdrawal.
- Stomach illness with no identifiable reason.
- Refusing to talk about a "secret" he/she has with an adult or older child.
- Talking about a new older friend.
- Suddenly having money.

*Sometimes signs of abuse can be seen in interaction between children and adults. Some examples include:*

- Manages to get time alone or insists on time alone with a child with no interruptions.
- Spends most of his/her spare time with children and has little interest in spending time with someone his or her own age.
- Regularly offers to baby-sit many different children for free or takes children on overnight outings alone.

“The process of obtaining the child’s trust takes time and manipulation, takes patience. You slowly confuse the child and when they are most vulnerable, the abuse gradually begins.”

- A Child Molester

*Extracted from the Archdiocese of Louisville's Honor Thy Children Training*

# PROFILE OF AN ABUSER



Without teachers and school staff looking for signs of abuse, it becomes more important for all of us to understand what makes up an abuser.

Child sexual abusers are neighbors, parents, step-parents, aunts, uncles, teachers, priests, deacons, and coaches - people we least expect to harm children.

There are two basic forms of child molesters: A preferential child molester and a situational child molester.

A preferential child molester is a pedophile. Pedophiles have a sexual preference for children. Preferential child molesters gain ready access to children by virtue of their occupations such as teacher, day care worker, nanny, coach, or youth worker. Pedophiles usually have multiple victims and often collect child pornography.

Situational child molesters may not have a true sexual preference for children, but engage in sex with children because of the availability of a child and/or their own feelings of inadequacy.

Now more than ever is when we need to be vigilant when looking for abuse.

## WHEN CHILDREN DO DISCLOSE ABUSE

When dealing with a child who has purposefully disclosed, respond by being honest and direct.

Acknowledge the child's courage in disclosing and ask what it is he or she hopes will happen. Provide the child with as much information as possible and allow the child some age appropriate choices about the process. Choices might include allowing the child to be present when the report to authorities is made or in the case of an older child, allowing the child to make the re-

port. These choices empower the child and allow for some control of the situation. Assure the child that he or she is not to blame, and that the abuse and its consequences are the fault of the abuser, not the child.

When children accidentally disclose, know that they will be much more fearful than children who

purposefully disclose. Children who accidentally disclose are highly reluctant for the information to be passed on any further. Be empathic about their reluctance, while letting them know that you must follow the law. Assure the child that you will do everything possible to keep him or her safe.



Inform children of the law, of your legal obligations, and of the reporting process. In some instances, explaining that you have a legal obligation to report the information relieves the

child that he or she is not responsible for breaking the silence. If a child discloses to you and you have questions, please feel free to reach out to Martine Siegel, Archdiocese of Louisville Victim Assistance Coordinator (502.636.1044) or via email [msiegel@archlou.org](mailto:msiegel@archlou.org).

## MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

"This to shall pass"

While most activity surrounding Safe Environment is on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there will come a time when events get back to some sense of normalcy.

When it does, those working with children on a regular basis will need to have attended the Safe Environment training and have a background check not older than five years.

If you're going to be serving in that capacity, now is the time to ensure you're in compliance.

Some Safe Environment Coordinators serve both the parish and the school and in some cases may be working remotely.

If you can, now might be the time to reach out to your coordinator and ensure your compliance and beat the fall rush.

If you don't know who that is or you can't reach your coordinator and want to check your status feel free to reach out to:

**Scott Fitzgerald**  
Archdiocese of Louisville  
Coordinator of Safe  
Environment Services  
502.471.2132 or via email  
[sfitzgerald@archlou.org](mailto:sfitzgerald@archlou.org)



**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## **"I COMPLETED A SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING IN ANOTHER DIOCESE, WILL IT BE ACCEPTED IN LOUISVILLE?"**

Education alone cannot shape mature attitudes and behavior. It is, however, a powerful tool in raising awareness and in educating staff and volunteers about child abuse and about their legal and moral responsibilities to report abuse.

The Archdiocese institutes a "safe environment" program to insure that children and youth who worship, study, or participate in Church programs can do so safely. The Archdiocese has established a code of conduct for all adults who work with youth on a regular basis. This code defines and establishes acceptable behavior that is legal, professional, and responsible. This Archdiocese specific code is reviewed at each "Honor Thy Children" Safe Environment Training. By completing this employees and volunteers acknowledge agreement to abide by it's guidelines.

Given this code of conduct is specific to the Archdiocese of Louisville we can not accept another diocese's training. All new employees and volunteers working regularly with children must

complete an Archdiocese of Louisville "Honor Thy Children" training and have a completed background check.

Every five years, all Church personnel (clergy, staff, and volunteers) who work with vulnerable persons are required to undergo a criminal background check, from the state of Kentucky or the state in which they live presently. Church personnel from other states must undergo a national criminal records check. The employment or volunteer service of personnel whose criminal check reveals records of sex crimes against vulnerable persons will be terminated immediately.

Should you have any questions concerning Safe Environment Compliance, feel free to reach out to Scott Fitzgerald, Archdiocese of Louisville Coordinator of Safe Environment Services ([sfitzgerald@archlou.org](mailto:sfitzgerald@archlou.org)) or 502.471.2132

