



Honor Thy Children

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

EMERGING FROM COVID 19 "HEALTHY AT HOME"

On May 20th parishes within the Archdiocese began to hold public mass again.

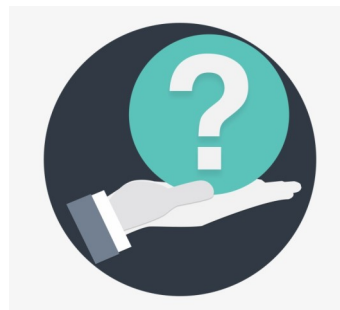
As we gradually begin to emerge from isolation, perhaps now is a good time to refresh yourself with Safe Environment best practices.

Remember Safe Environment Training and a current background check are required for any paid employee and any

volunteer working regularly with children.

Below are a series of scenarios that involve Safe Environment. Read the scenario and see if you would have made the right decision. If not, what the right decision would be.

See how you rate by answering the questions and flip to page 4 for the answers. Good Luck!



Archdiocese of Louisville

Volume VII Issue I

May/June 2020

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

RIGHT or WRONG



Scenario 1

You are new employee or volunteer to the Archdiocese of Louisville just arriving from another diocese and have attended multiple Safe Environment Trainings at other dioceses. What do you do now?

Scenario 2

Following a youth group meeting, one of the kids is being picked up by someone you don't recognize. The child tells you it's ok they know them, but you haven't heard from the parent(s). What do you do?

Scenario 3

A student recently helped out with a summer camp and mentioned they needed a new pair of relatively expensive cleats for the upcoming soccer season but can't afford them. As a token of appreciation you would like to offer them a gift card. What do you do?

Scenario 4

Because of COVID 19 restrictions you still want to hold a youth choir practice via zoom, so you quickly throw together a zoom session, notify the kids and let them know you'll look forward to seeing them. Right or wrong?

FLIP TO PAGE 4 TO SEE HOW YOU DID!

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!

IDENTIFYING ABUSE FOLLOWING ISOLATION

A concern during the "healthy at home" efforts during this COVID 19 pandemic was not having other eyes on the lookout for child abuse such as teachers, coaches and day-care workers.

As we slowly begin to incorporate ourselves back into society its more important now that we understand how to identify the signs of child abuse.

This is covered at length in the

Safe Environment Training Course
When children are experiencing stressors such as divorce or death of a loved one, expect a change in their behavior. Children exhibit similar behavioral 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 symptoms should alert adults to the possibility of sexual abuse:

Behavior Changes

- 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, a friend, a relative, or some other child or adult).
- Stomach illness with no identifiable reason.
- An older child behaving like a younger child, such as bed-wetting or thumb sucking.
- Sexual activities with toys or other children, such as simulating sex with dolls or asking other children/siblings to behave sexually.
- New words for private body parts.
- Refusing to talk about a "secret" he/she has with an adult or older child.
- Talking about a new older friend.
- Suddenly having money.

Physical Signs

- Unexplained bruises, redness, or bleeding of the child's genitals, anus, or mouth.
- Pain at the genitals, anus, or mouth.
- Genital sores or milky fluids in the genital area.

Parents and caregivers can help prevent child sexual abuse in several ways. Most importantly, start with becoming comfortable talking regularly with children in your care about all aspects of sexuality, including:

- Teaching children the proper words for their body parts (e.g. vagina, penis, buttocks, breasts), and make sure they understand certain parts of their body are private.
- Explaining the difference between privacy (doing something by themselves, but that you know about) and secrets (doing something that you don't know about), and what kind of secrets are OK to keep, like birthday presents, and what kind are not OK to keep.
- Explaining what respectful and safe relationships are, both in person and on-line (to include all electronic devices with access to the internet).



UPCOMING TRAININGS

In accordance with local, state and federal guidance amid the Covid-19 outbreak, all Safe Environment Trainings are limited to 50 people.

Attendance is on a first come/first served basis & masks are required.

(We do have some extras, but participants are encouraged to bring their own)

More trainings are being schedule with an increase in trainings to offset the capacity.

Once finalized and confirmed (or we can increase capacity) they will be posted at www.archlou.org/safe

6.30.20

St. Albert (Limited to 50)

7.9.20

St. Gabriel (Limited to 50)

7.13.20

Holy Spirit (Limited to 50)

7.14.20

St. Albert (Limited to 50)

7.16.20

Holy Spirit (Limited to 50)

7.29.20

St. Joseph (Bardstown)
(Limited to 50)

7.30.20

St. Gabriel
(Limited to 50)

8.10.20

St. Gregory (Cox's Creek)
(Limited to 50)

9.14.20

St. Dominic
(Limited to 50)

9.28.20

St. Augustine-Lebanon
(Limited to 50)

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

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IMAGES SURGE AMID PANDEMIC



Child abuse cases during the COVID 19 Pandemic are decreasing and that has some experts concerned that more cases are going unnoticed. Compared to this time last year Kentucky, Connecticut, California, Michigan, New Hampshire and Louisiana have all seen double digit drops in reported abuse cases. In Massachusetts cases dropped nearly 55% from 2,124 in early March to 972 in late April. Even with technology like Zoom or other remote connections, teachers, coaches and other adults who typically interact with kids can't see signs of abuse. According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics the US lost 20.5 million jobs in the month of April

marking the most sudden and largest decline since 1939. Could there be lasting effects even during post COVID 19 and the recovery period? Reported child neglect cases grew nearly 25% during the great recession of 2007-2009 according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Child abuse and neglect reports related to the COVID 19 pandemic will be gathered as part of fiscal year 2020 and won't be available until January 2022.

Lawmakers in Washington are pushing for more emergency funding for local child protective services and community-based child abuse prevention programs, but the recent COVID 19 pandemic underscores the urgency for all of us to understand the signs of child abuse and what to do when we notice them.

Remember, Kentucky is a mandatory reporting state. Should you suspect abuse you are mandated by law to report by calling 1-877-KYSAFE1. Should you have any questions concerning child abuse and/or what to do should you need to report feel free to call the Archdiocese of Louisville's Victim Assistance Coordinator, Martine Siegel at 502.636.1044 or if you prefer email (msiegel@archlou.org)

SUPPORT FOR CAREGIVERS OF ABUSED

While care for the abused is paramount. Support for the caregiver is also vital. Offer support to the caregivers (parent/guardians) of the abused child. The caregiver is probably hearing these allegations for the first time and will likely be very distressed. Caregivers will feel a great deal of guilt, anger, confusion, pain, and betrayal. Inform them as to what you know and have done. Listen to their fears and concerns and assist them by providing the names of community resources. If one of the caregivers is the one

alleged to have abused the child, he or she will be defensive and angry. Do not confront the alleged caregiver about the abuse. Allow law enforcement personnel and investigators to handle this. Your responsibility is to ensure the safety of the child.



“Child abuse is one of those issues that's very difficult to talk about because it's surrounded by guilt and shame and so on, but us avoiding that issue doesn't help those kids in need out there who need support.”

- Actor Chris Hemsworth who plays superhero Thor and is a leading advocate against Child Abuse.

MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

Now that Safe Environment Trainings are back on, this is a good time to get your training in and avoid the fall rush.

Currently local, state and federal regulations are allowing up to 50 participants. Once we receive word we can go to 100 we will do so.

Don't be left out because you don't have the Safe Environment Training.

More trainings will be offered to offset the seating capacity limits.

Again, if you're in doubt as to your status, now is a great time to check in with your Safe Environment Coordinator

Remember, background checks expire after 5 years.

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



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.

RIGHT or WRONG

How did you do?



Scenario 1

You are new employee or volunteer to the Archdiocese of Louisville having just arrived from another diocese outside of Louisville and have attended a Safe Environment Training multiple times at other dioceses. What do you do now?

*If you said "Immediately make plans to attend the next Safe Environment Training and check in with my parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator" **you are correct!** Because we have an Archdiocese of Louisville specific code of conduct, we cannot accept other Diocese's Safe Environment Training.*

Scenario 2

Following a youth group meeting, one of the kids is being picked up by someone you don't recognize. The child tells you it's ok they know them, but you haven't heard from the parent(s). What do you do?

*If you said "Contact the parents to make sure it's ok for them to leave with this person" **you are correct!** Appendix D (p. 37) of the Code of Conduct states "Release young people only to parents or guardians, unless the parent or guardian has provided permission allowing release to another adult"*

Scenario 3

A student recently helped out with a summer camp and mentioned they needed a new pair of relatively expensive cleats for the upcoming soccer season but can't afford them. As a token of appreciation you would like to offer them a gift card. What do you do?

*If you said "I wish I could, but a simple thank you will have to do" **you are correct!** Appendix D (p. 37) of the Code of Conduct states "Refrain from giving inappropriate or expensive gifts to young people"*

Scenario 4

Because of COVID 19 restrictions you still want to hold a youth choir practice via zoom, so you quickly throw together a zoom session, notify the kids and let them know you'll look forward to seeing them. Right or wrong?

*If you had the zoom chat approved and it will be monitored by the appropriate administer AND parents have been informed about the communication than **you are compliant!** Appendix D (p. 38) of the Code of Conduct states "Never participate in chat rooms or video chats with minors unless they have been created for a particular ministry". Additionally "Ensure that parents are informed about all social media communication utilized by the group/ministry in question".*