



Honor Thy Children

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

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AWARENESS CONTINUES DURING CHALLENGING TIMES

On June 14, 2002, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. The Charter addresses the Church's commitment to deal pastorally and effectively with cases of sexual abuse of minors by priests, deacons, and Church personnel (i.e., employees and volunteers). In addition, the Charter calls for the creation of safe environment programs that will help to create communities where children and adults will be protected from being the objects of sexual abuse and exploitation. The Archdiocese of Louisville's Honor Thy Children training is required by this charter for all paid staff members

and those adults working regularly with minors, aged birth to 17. To quote Archbishop Kurtz "Service on behalf of our Lord Jesus and His Church is a precious and sacred trust, and no person should

"This training has made me realize that I need help for the sexual abuse I endured as a child. I'm 26 years old. Thank you for saying it is never too late to get help. I'm ready"
- A recent attendee.

ever experience abuse from any individual with pastoral responsibilities within the Church." At the Archdiocese of Louisville's Honor Thy Children training participants will come away knowing how to identify, understand and respond to child sexual abuse locally and where to turn should they have any questions.

Unlike on-line trainings (and because of the uniqueness of the live local training), licensed mental health professionals Martine Siegel, also the Archdiocese of Louisville's Victim Assistance

Coordinator and Laura Probus, school counselor at Holy Trinity, train and are on hand to listen and answer any questions participants may have following a training. Over the past 5 trainings 11 attendees have come forward asking for resources to get help with their own childhood abuse. Socially distanced trainings continue to have a tremendous response and will continue. Winter and early spring trainings are being scheduled. Once they are finalized they will be posted at www.archlou.org/safe

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

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!



"I work in law enforcement and I want you to know that this is the most thorough and informative training I have ever attended, and I've been to many. I'm so impressed with the caliber of this presentation and with the Archdiocese for offering such quality education" - Recent training attendee.

WOULD YOU KNOW A CHILD ABUSER IF YOU SAW ONE? PROBABLY NOT

Child abuse, including child sexual abuse, has occurred throughout our society for many years. After several years of decline, child abuse appears to be on the rise again and child sexual abuse is a significant aspect of this increase. Child abuse is widespread. It cuts across all cultures, religions, and socioeconomic groups. 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 prepubescent 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. Could you identify an abuser?



Joseph Sweat from Elizabethtown was arrested for a second time for child sexual abuse. Hardin County sheriffs arrested Sweat last month for inappropriately touching two young female victims when they were about 7 years old, according to the warrant. Sweat was arrested two years ago by Elizabethtown Police on child sexual abuse charges. He worked as a computer technician for LaRue County Public Schools, but has not worked for the district since 2018.

SIGNS OF POSSIBLE ABUSE

BEHAVIOR

- Nightmares, trouble sleeping, fear of the dark, or other sleeping problems.
- 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).
- Extreme fear of "monsters"
- Talking about a new older friend.
- Suddenly having money.
- Sudden mood swings: rage, fear, anger, or withdrawal.

ADULT INTERACTION

- Refuses to let a child set any of his or her own limits.
- Insists on hugging, touching, kissing, tickling, wrestling with, or holding a child even when the child does not want this affection.
- Manages to get time alone or insists on time alone with a child with no interruptions.
- Regularly offers to babysit many different children for free or takes children on overnight outings alone.

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.

No one under 16 will be admitted to the training. This includes infants.

Masks are required and must be worn properly (over the nose and mouth) during the duration of the training

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

10.5.20
St. Gabriel

10.6.20
St. Margaret Mary

10.20.20
Incarnation

10.21.20
St. Bernadette

11.16.20
St. Francis Xavier
(Mt. Washington)

Additional trainings are being scheduled for November, December and into January and will be posted as well as sent to parish/school Safe Environment Coordinators once they are finalized.

Keep checking
www.archlou.org/safe
for updates



CHILD ABUSE REPORTS IN KENTUCKY DROP. WHY THAT MAY NOT BE A GOOD THING

According to data from Kentucky's Cabinet for Health and Family Services suspected child maltreatment reports dropped nearly 30% between March and July of this year. That's a nearly 30% drop from last year at this time. It's also a 42% drop from 2017.

Melissa Currie is a forensic pediatrician at the University of Louisville School of Medicine tells the Graham Ambrose from the Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting (KCIR), "If indeed abuse were going down, then we should also see a drop in the most severe cases,". She goes on to say, "We are seeing a steady if not slightly increased number of the severe cases. What that tells me is that abuse is still happening, and it's still happening at the same rate

or maybe a little more than it used to."

School personnel are often one of the first people to notice signs of abuse and report. With so many schools offering NTI (non traditional instruction) or remote learning, those signs are often going unnoticed.

For example, according to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services over 70% fewer reports of suspected maltreatment were submitted by school personnel over those same months.

Jennifer Baumer Gerber, a middle school teacher in Shelby County tells KCIR "For many kids, that's their safe space. They might have a chaotic home life, but at school there's routines and people who care about them," she continues, "It definitely weighs on you."

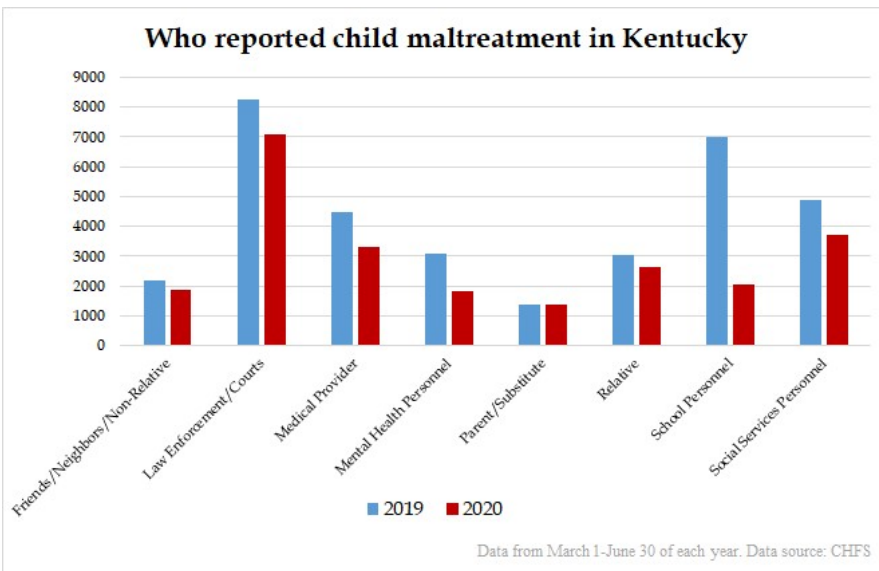


Chart credit Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting

Remember, Kentucky is a mandatory reporting state.

By law, you MUST report any suspected abuse by calling 1-877-KYSAFE1. How to identify and report are two key parts of the Archdiocese of Louisville's Safe Environment Training.

As an employee or a volunteer it's always good to refresh yourself on what you would do if approached with a suspected abuse case.

MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

You're set to volunteer at your child's school or you're going to accept a new position within an Archdiocese of Louisville school or parish when you find out they don't have record of your Safe Environment Training.

Perhaps your coming from another Archdiocese where you completed their training and you assume that will suffice?

Given we discuss the Archdiocese of Louisville specific code of conduct, we do not accept another Diocese's Safe Environment Training.

You are also required to have a satisfactory background check run by the Archdiocese of Louisville not older than five years.

Now is the time to check in with your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator to see where you stand and make sure you are compliant.

Don't be caught off guard by unnecessary delays.

If you don't know who your coordinator is or should you have any questions, 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**

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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.

DEFINITION: GROOMING

Child sexual abuse generally involves a trusted adult (neighbors, parents, step-parents, aunts, uncles, teachers, priests, deacons, and coaches) who is in a relationship of power to the child and uses that position to manipulate children in order to satisfy the adult's own sexual needs. Abusers manipulate situations in order to create an atmosphere where sexualized contact can occur, such as opportunities to be alone with the child.

This process is called "grooming". Adults who sexually abuse children seek out vulnerable children - children that are easier to manipulate relative to other children. This means targeting children with whom they have ready access, as well as those who are left alone by adult caregivers and/or possess low self-esteem.

Understanding and identifying signs of grooming are an integral part of the Archdiocese of Louisville's Safe Environment Training.

