



# Honor Thy Children

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

## OVER \$1M MADE AVAILABLE TO FIGHT ABUSE

FRANKFORT, Ky. Three partner agencies of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) have been awarded \$1.4 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to assist with services that support prevention of abuse and domestic violence. CHFS requested the advocacy organizations receive the funding, which is from Kentucky's portion of federal CARES Act resources. Targeted programs serve survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse and have been affected financially through their response to the coronavirus. Gov. Andy Beshear said the funding will provide relief for agencies helping the most vulnerable Kentuckians. "These agencies are serving survivors whose deep pain is amplified through this coronavirus," he said. "This funding will go to the staff and services that are helping

these Kentuckians heal through an intrinsically difficult time." Agencies receiving the funding include the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs, the Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky. Funding will go toward expenses incurred because of the COVID-19 emergency, including personal protective equipment and expenses to improve telecommunication services to clients. CHFS Secretary Eric Friedlander said these groups are longtime cabinet partners who use best practice strategies in their advocacy. "We know these agencies provide a comprehensive support to anyone impacted by abuse," he said. "Coronavirus created a lot of uncertainties not only for abuse survivors but for the advocacy agencies that have seen limitations on staff, volunteers and

fundraising. These funds help address that and give power to the potential of easing the trauma of abuse." Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) Commissioner Marta Miranda-Straub said the funded agencies and DCBS have the same mission to protect vulnerable people and families, and the services are needed now more than ever. "We know that families and relationships have dealt with additional stress during COVID-19 - the risk factors are amplified," she said. "This funding helps to strengthen the access to programs that both protect and lift up the survivors of abuse and domestic violence and serve families and children living with intimate partner violence." Miranda-Straub said the funded groups also offer valuable training to help recognize and prevent abuse.

### Archdiocese of Louisville

November 2020

### 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)

### 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!

### SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING UPDATE

Remaining in compliance with Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear's latest executive order that went into effect on Friday, November 20th, all Safe Environment Trainings will be limited to the first 25 people until further guidance is provided.

As a reminder it's always best to check

[www.archlou.org/safe](http://www.archlou.org/safe)

the day of any training as circumstances can change quickly

With COVID-19 cases on the rise how soon does the risk of children being exposed sexually by predators.

Back in October the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) saw reports of child sexual exploitation double from the year before. Orlando television news WKMG reported the Central Florida I.C.A.C. (Internet Crimes Against Children) task force received 3,566 tips compared to 2,269 over the same period last year.

SIGNS

PHYSICAL PREVALENCE PROSECUTION AWARENESS NEGLECT SUPPORT SEXUAL IMPACTS

ONLINE ABUSE

OFFENCES

PROCEDURES

TRAFFICKING EVIDENCE

ORGANISATIONS

FORCED DOMESTIC

GROOMING

PREVENTION VIOLENCE CARE HUMAN

EMOTIONAL SAFETY

DISCLOSURE

BULLYING INVESTIGATION CASES

RISKS

EXPLOITATION

COMMUNICATION GAMES MOTIVS

a pedophile. Pedophiles have a sexual preference for pre-pubescent 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.

Many experts agree keeping younger kids off social media as long as possible greatly reduces their risk, but at the same time parents need to be actively involved in their child's social media habits and behaviors.

In accordance with local, state and federal guidance amid the Covid-19 outbreak, all Safe Environment Trainings are limited to 25 people.

**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)

1.12.21  
St. Albert The Great

1.19.21  
St. Gabriel

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

Keep checking  
[www.archlou.org/safe](http://www.archlou.org/safe)  
for updates



## FIVE POINTS TO UNDERSTANDING 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.*

Family members and caregivers of children also must be groomed as the child is being targeted. When the adult abuser resides outside the family, trust must be earned from the child's guardians in order to gain private access to the child.

A child's shame and embarrassment at having "allowed" the abuse reinforces the secrecy. Soon after the onset of the abuse, children begin to feel complicit in their own abuse. They accept responsibility for causing it and feel as though they deserved it or that they should have stopped it.

Threats ensure the child's secrecy. "If you tell, you'll get in trouble," "If you tell, your mommy and daddy will be sad," "If you tell, I'll have to go away" are classic examples of powerful threats used to gain control over children. The threats place responsibility onto the child for any bad things occurring as a result of the child telling, while dismissing the wrongdoing of the sexual violation. The threat frequently involves killing someone or something that the child loves, such as a sibling, parent, or pet. This threat is frightening enough to keep the child fearful of revealing the abuse.

Bribery can be both subtle and overt. Bribery may include seeking special time with a child and/ or providing gifts such as money and candy. Accepting these bribes create guilt, shame, and a sense of responsibility for the child's sexual abuse. Abusers also rely on the child's inherent narcissism in that they accept responsibility for the abusive relations. The child's feelings of complicity assist in maintaining the child's silence, which in turn, reinforces the child's experience that he or she is responsible for the abuse.

Adult abusers often distort love and affection in order to increase children's vulnerability. Abusers often redefine their actions as "natural expressions of love," suggesting that they are doing these things "for the child's own good" including describing their actions as a form of "sex education." Such re-definitions reinforce the confusion that children feel and further cause them to doubt their own "uh-oh" feelings. Children are accustomed to the idea that something that pains them is good for them, i.e. getting a shot or a spanking. Adult abusers use these same arguments to justify and explain their behavior.

*"I was a master of manipulating both the children I abused and their families. They trusted me whole heartedly with their child." - A Child Molester*

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## MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

Despite most of us being socially distant in 2020 there are still positions where adults are working with youth in our parish/ school communities.

It's worth repeating that just because "you know someone" who is working regularly with children doesn't mean they are Safe Environment Compliant.

Page 24 of the Archdiocese of Louisville Code of Conduct states:

"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."

Additionally any member working regularly with children **MUST** attend a Safe Environment workshop ([www.archlou.org/safe](http://www.archlou.org/safe))

Unsure of your own status or those still volunteering with children in your parish? Now is an excellent time to reach out to your parish/ school safe environment coordinator and make sure you (they) are compliant. If you don't know who that is reach out to

**Scott Fitzgerald**  
Archdiocese of Louisville  
Coordinator of  
Safe Environment Services

sfitzgerald@archlou.org  
502.471.2132



**ARCHDIOCESE  
OF LOUISVILLE**

[www.archlou.org](http://www.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.

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## **WHAT IS A VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR?**

The Archdiocese of Louisville Victim Assistance Coordinator is a person appointed by the Archbishop to assist victims and their families when they report sexual abuse or misconduct by Church personnel. The Victim Assistance Coordinator will take the initial report, make sure that the authorities have been properly notified, inform victims/survivors about counseling and pastoral assistance opportunities, and keep the victim in-formed about the progress of any internal investigation.

The Victim Assistance Coordinator can also assist in offering referrals for anyone who is in need of counseling for any reason or simply serve as a resource for anyone who has questions about abuse reporting or any other issue.

**ARCHDIOCESE OF  
LOUISVILLE**

**VICTIM ASSISTANCE  
COORDINATOR**

**MARTINE SEIGEL**

**502.585.3291**

**OR VIA EMAIL**

**[mseigel@archlou.org](mailto:mseigel@archlou.org)**