



Honor Thy Children

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

UNDERSTANDING RISKS TO A CHILD IN DISCLOSING ABUSE

Archdiocese of
Louisville

June 2022

There are genuine risks to the child when she or he discloses, including the lack of protection for the child if he or she is not believed, or when removal of a child from an abusive situation does not take place in a timely fashion. Moreover, when children are protected and removed from the home, they feel punished, which serves to reinforce the shame and misplaced responsibility that the child feels for causing the abuse. To a child, being removed and placed with strangers (even with relatives) seems like punishment, further reinforcing the ideas that "I am bad," "I am to blame", and/or "I should have kept quiet." Furthermore, when children are removed from their home, they are taken from their community. They no longer participate in any youth activities, club outings, sporting competitions, and other extracurricular activities. This is experienced as

additional punishment for their disclosure. These feelings are compounded when adults are angry and children are silenced from talking about the very matter that caused them to be pulled from their community. Another risk for the child is the probable loss of the relationship to the abuser. Children who are abused usually have mixed feelings about their abuser. The child hates the offending actions but still cares for the person who is abusing him or her. There are cases where the abuser is the primary financial supporter of the family and disclosing may result in the family losing economic support. In such cases, the abused child often internalizes blame believing that "if I didn't tell, we wouldn't be in such a mess." Know that in general, a child who is being abused feels a desire to protect others in the home—including other siblings and the non-abusing parent. If the

abusing parent gets removed, the child may internalize the responsibility for the pain that the non-abusing parent feels. Family members vary in their responses to a child's disclosure. They have varying degrees of believing and supporting the child for many reasons, including the fact that the abuser is most often a relative or family friend. Coming to terms with the idea that someone we know and respect could sexually abuse a child is difficult for people. To the child, this ambivalence feels like he or she is not being believed. It is not uncommon for some family members to reject the child's story and side with the abuser. This is particularly devastating to a child when a parent/guardian refuses to believe that the abuse actually happened

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!

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 report. 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.

Let's play

"Did I Make The Right Call?"

Take a look at the following scenarios below and see if in fact you practiced good safe environment and "made the right call"
(the answers are on page 4)

SCENARIO #1: You and other youth leaders are returning from a successful mission trip and stop to reward the students with dinner at a nice restaurant before returning back to the school where parents will pick them up. You're not driving and would like a glass of wine with dinner. What do you do?

SCENARIO #2: A student in your class (whose parents you know well) approached you and gave indication that a relative may have touched them inappropriately at a family gathering last month. What do you do?

SCENARIO #3: Through conversations with your students you notice most of them use a popular social media app. In an effort to better communicate with them you create an account on said app and tell the kids they may communicate with you there. Did you make the right call?

SCENARIO #4: You are cleaning up the locker room after everyone has left a big tournament. You're approached by a student who wants to talk about the game. What do you do?

SCENARIO #5: A parent you know well shows up after a service project to pick up their child. They let you know a friend of their child's parents (who you know) said they need to pick him up as well. What do you do?

SCENARIO #6: It's new season, but the parish/school is still looking for volunteers to coach. You have a your first practice tonight, but still don't have another coach to assist. What do you do?



WORKING WITH MINORS? ARE YOU COMPLIANT?

What is compliance?

1
Initial attendance at an in person
Archdiocese of Louisville Safe
Environment Training

2
A satisfactory background check issued by the
Archdiocese of Louisville not older than 5 years

3
A five year refresher training either online or
attendance at in in person scheduled training



To check your compliance please
see your parish/school
Safe Environment Coordinator

UPCOMING TRAININGS

All trainings start at 630p
unless otherwise indicated.

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

If you think you will be working
with children please make plans
to attend a training at your
earliest opportunity.

You don't want to miss out on
an opportunity to serve because
you haven't completed the
Safe Environment
Training Course.

8.9.22
St. Catherine

8.10.22
Holy Trinity-Louisville
***5pm start**

8.11.22
St. Gabriel

8.15.22
Incarnation

8.22.22
St. James (Elizabethtown)

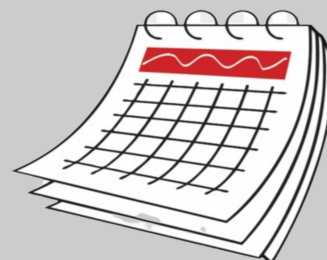
8.29.22
St. Gregory (Cox's Creek)

(Fall trainings are in the works
for September, October
& November and will be posted
online once finalized)

A complete list of trainings can
always be found at

www.archlou.org/safe

Be sure to bookmark this site
for updates and/or cancellations
as we enter inclement weather
season and the website is the
primary avenue for
communicating changes to the
training schedule.



Q & A?

Understanding child sexual abuse can sometimes be confusing and knowing what to do can often lead to questions. Below are some frequently asked questions when it comes to abuse and answers directly from the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

As always you're invited to reach out to Archdiocese of Louisville, Victim Assistance Coordinator Martine Siegel should you need clarification or have questions in general. Her number is 502.636.1044 or via email at msiegel@archlou.org.

Q. Who should report suspected abuse or neglect of a child?

A. KRS 620.030(1) - Anyone with a reasonable suspicion that a child is dependent, abused or neglected is required to make a report to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

Q. What information does the intake worker need from the reporter?

A. The following basic information is requested:

- The child's name, sex and approximate age
- The name of the person believed to have been responsible for the abuse or neglect
- A description of the injury, neglect or threatened harm to the child
- The current location of the child such as day care, school or home address
- Any immediate risk to the child or a worker going out to ensure the child's safety (i.e., guns)
- The reporter's name and identifying information if the caller wishes to give that information. Anonymous reports are accepted and investigated.

Q. What legal protection is available for reporting sources?

A. KRS 620.050(1) Good Faith Immunity - Anyone acting upon reasonable cause in the making of a report or acting under KRS 620.030 to 620.050 in good faith shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed. Any such participant shall have the same immunity with respect to participation in any judicial proceeding resulting from such report or action. However, any person who knowingly makes a false report and does so with malice shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

Q. Can an investigative worker interview a child without the parent's consent?

A. KRS 620.072 - A school or childcare provider shall provide access to the child without parental consent.

Q. Can a social worker just take a child out of the home?

A. No. Only the police have that authority if they feel that a child is in imminent danger. A judge can issue an emergency custody order (ECO) for a child to be picked up and held for 72 hours before a hearing. KRS 620.040(3)(b) allows a hospital administrator or a physician treating a child to hold that child without a court order but they must request an ECO within 72 hours.

1.877.KYABUSE1
TO REPORT ABUSE



MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

The online refresher trainings are moving along well as many of you are pleased with how easy it was.

Again if you've already attended an Archdiocese of Louisville in person training, you are eligible to take then online refresher training.



Effective in 2022 all members whose Safe Environment date is older than 5 years must complete a refresher training.

This can be satisfied online or you can attend a regularly scheduled in person training listed at

www.archlou.org/safe

Should you chose the online option, please see your school/parish Safe Environment Coordinator who have instructions for completing the online training.

If you don't know who that is contact Scott Fitzgerald, Archdiocese of Louisville Coordinator of Safe Environment Services via email (sfitzgerald@archlou.org) or phone (502.471.2132)



Online Refresher Training provided by Catholic Mutual Group

**Archdiocese of Louisville
Office of Safe Environment**

Martine Bacci Siegel, MSN, RN, CNS
Maloney Center
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Louisville, KY 40220

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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

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.



According to the American Psychological Association, the following factors may help decrease the risk of abuse or neglect

- Children's optimism, high self-esteem, intelligence, creativity, humor and independence, which enhance their coping skills in the face of adversity.
- The acceptance of peers and positive influences such as teachers, mentors and role models;
- The child's experience of love, acceptance, positive guidance and protection from a caring adult which encourages trust that their parents or caregivers will provide what they need to thrive.
- Parent's or caregiver's respectful communication and listening, consistent rules and expectations and safe opportunities that promote independence.
- Parents or caregivers who can cope with the stresses of everyday life and have the inner strength to bounce back when things are not going well.
- Parents or caregivers with a social network of emotionally supportive friends, family and neighbors.

"Did I Make The Right Call" Answers

SCENARIO #1: If you passed on the glass of wine, you made the right call. Page 37 of the Code of Conduct states "Never use alcohol when engaged in ministering to minors."

SCENARIO #2: If you said "reported it to the proper authorities" you made the right call. "Report any suspected child abuse (sexual, physical, neglect) to the authorities (Page 36 Code of Conduct)"

SCENARIO #3: If you created the account specifically for communicating with students AND ensured it was approved by the appropriate administrator (pastor, principal, director) AND ensured ALL parents were informed about all and any social media used by the group, then you made the right call.

SCENARIO #4: If you responded by saying "escort the child out of the locker room to a public open place where we could talk" you made the right call. Page 36 of the Code of Conduct states "Avoid being alone with a minor in a residence, rectory, sleeping facility, locker room, restroom, dressing facility or other closed rooms."

SCENARIO #5: If you said "contact the parents via call or text to get confirmation" you made the right call. 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 #6: If you responded with "wait until I get another coach or ask a parent to accompany me" you made the right call. According to the code of conduct adults are required "Have an adequate number of adults present at events. A minimum of two adults must always be present during activities for minors."