



# Honor Thy Children

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

## APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

**Archdiocese of  
Louisville**

March 2022

With April being National Child Abuse prevention month, now is a good time to brush up on the signs of child abuse and what you can do to prevent it. The Archdiocese of Louisville in compliance with the USCCB's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People requires those working with children to initially complete an in person "Honor Thy Children" Safe Environment Training as well as a five year refresher that teaches individuals how to identify the signs of child abuse and what to do once they think abuse might be occurring. Additionally, schools are

mandated each year to present the "Speak Up/Be Safe" Curriculum, a comprehensive child abuse prevention education curriculum that covers various types of abuse, with age-appropriate lessons in grades K-8. This is made possible through a generous Kosair Charities "Face It" grant. Below are some helpful tips on identifying potential signs of abuse and what you can do about it.



### 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.pcainc.org](http://www.pcainc.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!

## TIPS ON PREVENTING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

*COURTESY OF PREVENT CHILD ABUSE KENTUCKY*

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 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).
- Discussing and monitor your children's media, photo sharing and technology use - parents should always know what their children are watching on television and online.
- Telling children not to look at other people's private parts, and other people are not to look at their private parts (including in person, online or via cell text message).

# HOW YOU TALK TO CHILDREN GOES A LONG WAY IN PREVENTION

Listen to and honor children by giving them a voice. Teach them personal boundaries and respect for their bodies. Discuss with children what is appropriate and inappropriate touch. Explain to them that other people do not have the right to touch them in ways that make them uncomfortable. Help younger children identify "private parts," "bathing suit zones" with appropriate terminology for all parts of their body. Communicate to children that there is nothing wrong with understanding their bodies and talking about their bodies. All bodies are beautiful, sacred, and holy. Adults often give mixed messages to children about their rights to have a say in who touches them and how they are touched. It is not uncommon, for example, for adults to pressure children into kissing or hugging aunts or

uncles whom they may be hesitant to approach. Give children the right to decide who touches them, including family members. As an adult, listen to and



trust your own intuition and instincts. If you sense something is not right or seems odd, it may well be. Do not leave children in the care of someone you do not have a good feeling about. For questions about talking to children about abuse, 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)

## BECOME A "TELLABLE" ADULT

Create an environment of responsiveness and comfort so that children feel free to disclose. Create an environment that makes it clearly known that children will be listened to and believed. As youth workers (counselors, teachers, principals, catechists, priests, youth ministers, coaches), communicate the idea that children will be heard. Display posters, books, and pamphlets that indicate a level of sensitivity to child abuse. Intentionally raise the issues of "uncomfortable and confusing touches" with children. Invite them to tell you anything that may be bothering or troubling them. Most of all, be in tune with children that are in your care.

## UPCOMING TRAININGS

*There are plenty of training opportunities coming up please see below.*

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

*If you think you will be working regularly 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.*

4.19.22  
St. Gabriel

4.25.22  
Incarnation

5.2.22  
St. Albert the Great

5.23.22  
Holy Spirit-Louisville

*More trainings are being scheduled for June & July and will be posted once confirmed*

*A complete list of trainings can always be found at*

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

**AGAIN, MORE TRAININGS WILL BE SCHEDULED DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.**

*Once those are finalized they will be published to the website and communicated to each parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator*

# BY THE NUMBERS

(CY 2020)

NUMBERS PROVIDED BY KENTUCKY CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

**1,885**

The number of children with a substantiated report for sexual abuse

**47%**

...of reports where family violence was documented as a risk factor

**45**

....percentage of substantiated allegations or services needed reports involved children age 5 or younger

**4,150**

The number of children substantiated or in need of services for physical abuse

# CHOOSING A CHILD CARE PROVIDER

Leaving children with a new caregiver is one of the biggest decisions a parent can make. Anyone working with children in the Archdiocese of Louisville must complete the Archdiocese of Louisville's "Honor Thy Children" training and have a satisfactory

background check not older than five years. No matter who you leave your children with, it's strongly recommended doing some homework and asking questions. To help get you started "Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky" has put together some helpful tips to assist you in your

search. For those within the Archdiocese of Louisville, feel free to reach out to the parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator to ask if caregivers are up to date on their compliance.

## How to Choose a Safe Child Care Provider or Caregiver

You will make many decisions about where to send your child for school, childcare or other activities and programs. It is important to ask questions when thinking about who has access to your child.

### Before hiring a caregiver...

- ★ Check the reputation of the caregiver, even those you know.

- ★ Get at least two references from the caregiver. Check all references received. Talk to parents of kids already in the program.

- ★ Make sure staff/volunteers have been trained to take care of children. Ensure they also receive background checks for child abuse and criminal activities.

- ★ Observe how the caregiver interacts with your child and other children. Does the caregiver maintain appropriate control of the children and if so, how? Are the caregivers' voices relaxed and reassuring? The caregiver should easily connect with children.

- ★ In the interview process, let the caregiver know you have ongoing, open conversations with your child about his/her safety, boundaries and that your child will share concerns with you. Let them know your child's concerns will be taken seriously.

- ★ Find out what activities are available for your child throughout the day. There may be a daily schedule. Check out the toys, play equipment, books, and materials used to keep the children busy. Are play areas clean and clear of hazards?

### Before enrolling your child in nursery school, daycare, pre-kindergarten, or camp, consider the following:

- ★ Tour the building, inside and outside. If you are not allowed in some sections or rooms, choose another facility. The facility should be clean and well organized. Are there isolated or secluded areas? Are the bathrooms used by children well lit with only one entry point? Are hallways, entryways, stairwells, and rooms brightly lit?

- ★ Check to see if the facility has a parents' advisory board. If so, call the board and find out recommendations they have made in the past. Has the provider followed through with them? If they don't have an advisory board, why not start one?

**1.800.CHILDREN**  
A free, confidential information  
and support hotline



 **Prevent Child Abuse  
Kentucky**



## MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

Our office has been inundated with requests for last minute verifications regarding Honor Thy Children Safe Environment Training attendance holding up a person's ability to coach or help out at a school/parish function.

Remember anyone working with children must initially attend an "in person" Safe Environment Training and have an Archdiocese of Louisville run satisfactory background check not older than five years.

If you think you're going to be called to serve in the near future please reach out to your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator and verify they have a record of your compliance on file.

A "refresher training" for those who have ALREADY attended the "in person" training is required every five years. The refresher training can be satisfied either online or by attending any scheduled in person training. See your school/parish Safe Environment Coordinator for details.

If you're a parent whose child will be participating in a school/parish sponsored activity, you are welcome to check with the school/parish Safe Environment Coordinator and see if your child's coach/mentor is Safe Environment compliant.

If you're unsure of who this is feel free to contact:

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

[sfitzgerald@archlou.org](mailto:sfitzgerald@archlou.org)  
or  
502.471.2132



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.

# SEPERATING MYTH FROM FACT

## MYTH

Strangers are responsible for most child abuse.

Most sexual abusers are homosexuals.

Children usually lie about sexual abuse.

Child sexual abuse is more widespread among Catholic clergy than other professions or religious communities.

## FACT

Most child abuse, including sexual abuse, is perpetrated by someone known to the child.

Most sexual abusers are male, and the vast majority are heterosexual.

The rate of false reporting, or lying, about sexual abuse is the same as the incidence of false reporting of any other type of crime.

There is no evidence that child sexual abuse is more or less common in any particular denomination or religion. All evidence suggests that the occurrence of sexual abuse remains the same across religious affiliations, socioeconomic status, or cultural groups.