



# Honor Thy Children

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

## SCHOOL'S OUT...BUT ABUSE IS NOT

**Archdiocese of Louisville**

May 2022

School is out and summer is here, a time kids look forward to all year! Unfortunately, when school is out so are the extra set of eyes that can spot signs of child abuse. This as statistics tell us often abuse happens in the one place where kids are supposed to be safe...at home. Teachers and school staff play a big role in identifying and reporting abuse as they see kids on a regular basis and can identify changes such as

behavioral differences. Children who are already in unsafe homes, where abuse or neglect is present are at more risk than ever during the summer months because they may not have a stable caregiver to help keep them safe. In the absence of our school's presence in the summer there are things you can look for while out at the pool, park, store or even when a child's friend stops by....



### 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!

## What to look for...



Is the child acting unusual? Hyper emotional or sad?

Are there unexplained injuries, bruises or broken bones?



Look for clothing that seems too heavy for Kentucky summer heat. Abuse is often kept quiet, hidden beneath a shirt or pants.

*If you see something or even suspect something you (in the state of Kentucky) are obligated by law to report it*

**1-877-KYSAFE1**

# WORKING WITH CHILDREN? WHAT'S REQUIRED OF YOU?

Education alone cannot shape mature attitudes and behavior. It is, however, a powerful tool in raising awareness and in educating staff and volunteers about child abuse and about their legal and moral responsibilities to report abuse.

The Archdiocese has a "safe environment" program to insure that children and youth who worship, study, or participate in Church programs can do so safely. Part of this program is the Archdiocese of Louisville specific code of conduct for all adults who work with youth as well as a satisfactory completed background check issued by the Archdiocese of Louisville not older than five years.

This code defines and establishes acceptable behavior that is legal, professional, and responsible. This code is discussed and reviewed at the INITIAL IN PERSON Safe Environment training and there is NO online option for the initial training. It is Archdiocese of Louisville specific and

for that reason we can't accept other diocese's safe environment trainings.

Following each training members are required to sign a "Church Personnel Acknowledgement Card" reflecting agreement to abide by these guidelines. A copy of this card is required to be returned to the parish/school in which you are serving and kept on file by the school/parish. Ensure you keep the original for yourself should you serve at another parish or school and need to provide proof of your attendance. Additionally, we have been encouraged during our national annual audit to implement an update for our Safe Environment Training Program, and we agreed that this is wise counsel. The current policy is that all employees and volunteers who have regular contact with minors must attend an IN PERSON workshop offered by our staff. The Archdiocese has been recognized for offering in-person workshops for many years.

This policy was updated in January 2022 to require all active employees and volunteers to have attended a training program within the past five years. While we continue to require new employees and volunteers to attend an in-person workshop, we are pleased to be able to offer an online alternative for those who wish to meet the required update training, using a program produced by Catholic Mutual. Members can still attend any scheduled in person training to update their training as well. For information on how to complete the online REFRESHER or should you have any questions about your compliance please see your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator. If you don't know who that is reach out to Scott Fitzgerald, Archdiocese of Louisville Coordinator of Safe Environment Services via email ([sfitzgerald@archlou.org](mailto:sfitzgerald@archlou.org)) or 502.471.2132.

## UPCOMING TRAININGS

*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.*

6.27.22  
St. Gabriel

6.30.22  
Incarnation

8.9.22  
St. Catherine

8.11.22  
St. Gabriel

8.15.22  
Incarnation

8.22.22  
St. James (Elizabethtown)

8.29.22  
St. Gregory (Cox's Creek)

*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.*



## Kids off to summer camp?

*Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky recommends asking the following questions before sending them:*

Does the organization do criminal and Child Protective Services background checks on all employees and volunteers?

What is the organization's employee conduct policy?

Is there abuse prevention training provided to all staff, including camp counselors who may be youth themselves?

What are the age ranges of campers? Does the camp monitor interactions between older & younger youth?



## Possible Warning Signs

While not always present, warning signs may include:



Strong efforts to avoid, or to be with, a specific person without an obvious reason



Displaying knowledge or interest in sexual acts that are inappropriate to his or her age



Pain when toileting, trouble walking or sitting, or pain, itching, bleeding, or bruises in or around the genitals



Sudden changes in behavior, such as becoming more withdrawn, or being more aggressive toward family friends, pets, or toys



Unexplained episodes of anger, rage, or moodiness



Sleep disturbances, such as nightmares or bedwetting



Difficulty concentrating or staying on task, irritability, lacking motivation, and showing little or no emotion

The last four warning signs can be signs of stress which may or may not be related to sexual abuse. If your child has any physical symptoms such as pain, itching, bleeding or bruising, seek medical care right away. Remember, children may not react as adults might expect. Often there are no warning signs.

90%

of children who are victims of sexual abuse know their abuser. Only 10% are abused by strangers.<sup>1</sup>

1 in 10

children will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday.<sup>2</sup>



## MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

Welcome to summer! A time when many aren't thinking about Safe Environment Training, but now is the best time to ensure your compliance

Are you a new parent? Are you being called upon to serve your parish or school this fall perhaps as a coach or mentor?



While trainings are typically scaled back during the summer, there are select trainings available when the attendance is typically lighter.



Don't wait until the last minute to check your compliance only to find out you either have an outdated background check or haven't completed the required Archdiocese of Louisville Safe Environment Training workshop.

Now is a good time to check in with your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator to check the status of your compliance and avoid a fall panic once the new school year starts.

Courtesy of our partners at the Face It Movement led by Kosair Charities.

We're pleased to announce that Kosair Charities is again funding the "Speak Up/Be Safe" Curriculum taught in all Archdiocese of Louisville Elementary schools that help students prevent, interrupt, and speak up about various types of child abuse—physical, emotional, sexual, neglect, bullying, and cyberabuse.



**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](mailto:victimassistance@archlou.org)

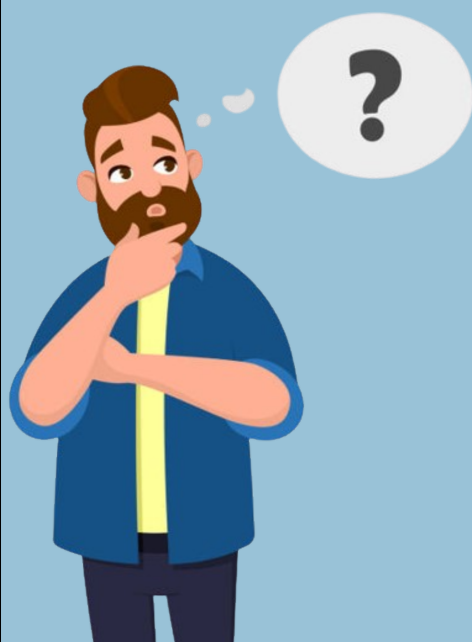
We must heed God's call to care for the most vulnerable among us and to continue our efforts toward wholeness and health in dealing with sexual abuse.

Have you ever seen an adult interacting with a child in such a way that made you feel uncomfortable with what you observed? It is human nature to minimize or doubt these suspicious feelings and opt to believe that you are overreacting. These are "uh-oh" feelings and they should not be ignored. Below are some warning signs that encourage further inquiry when you witness an adult who:

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.

Is overly interested in the sexuality of a particular child or teen (e.g., talks repeatedly about the child's developing body or interferes with normal teen dating).



Manages to get time alone or insists on time alone with a child with no interruptions.

Spends most of his/her spare time with children and has little interest in spending time with someone his or her own age.

Regularly offers to baby-sit many different children for free or takes children on overnight outings alone.  
Buys a child expensive gifts or gives money for no apparent reason.

Frequently walks in on children/teens in the bathroom.

Allows children or teens to consistently get away with inappropriate behaviors.