



Honor Thy Children

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

SAFE ENVIRONMENT: A REFRESHER

In November of 2021 Archbishop (then) Kurtz, sent a letter to parish priests (that was subsequently sent to parish/school Safe Environment Coordinators) with an update to the Safe Environment policy. The letter stated *"The current policy is that all employees and volunteers who have regular contact with minors must attend a workshop offered by our staff. The Archdiocese has been recognized for offering in-person workshops provided every month for many years. This policy will be updated in January 2022 to require all active employees and volunteers to have attended a training program within the past*

five years. Databases at the local level and at the Archdiocese should indicate when each employee or active volunteer last attended a training."

While the in-person training is mandatory for first time candidates, many have utilized the online alternative to meet the required **updated** training, using a program produced by Catholic Mutual.

While it is understood it will certainly take time for all active staff and volunteers who attended workshops prior to 2016 to attend an updated training, it remains our hope that this can be completed before the end of this year.

Again, to reiterate All persons working with

children must complete an initial **in person** training at any of the Archdiocese of Louisville scheduled trainings. After that, a person is required to complete a five-year refresher training either online or any of the in-person trainings. If you've completed the in-person training and would like to pursue the online option for your refresher, please see your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator so they can confirm your initial in person attendance and give you instructions for completing the online refresher.

Archdiocese of Louisville

October 2022

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.

Has it been 5 years since your initial in person training? You must complete your 5 year refresher training

You must also have a satisfactory background check not older than 5 years.

See your Safe Environment Coordinator today to verify your compliance!

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**Safe Environment
Refresher Training**

HOW CHILDREN ARE AFFECTED BY ABUSE

Children are individuals, and each is affected differently by abuse. A number of people could have the trauma of sexual abuse occur in their lives, but each individual will respond and react in varying ways according to his or her personality, family of origin, support systems, gender, age at the time of the abuse, and many other variables too numerous to list. Other factors that impact the magnitude of the damage include duration of abuse, level of intrusiveness/violation of the abuse, type and severity of threats used to maintain secrecy, relationship to the abuser, the number of



perpetrators, and age at the time of disclosure as well as reactions to

disclosure. It is never appropriate to try to predict how a child may be affected by sexual abuse. What someone may deem "mild" sexual abuse may traumatize a child the rest of his or her life. Another child that suffered from what others may describe as "severe" abuse, may, with proper care, heal and live a healthy and productive

life. The effects of abuse are unpredictable, and all individuals need support and compassion as they find their unique paths to healing. In general, the younger the age of the child at the onset and the longer the duration of the sexual abuse, the more severe are the effects of sexual abuse. Also, the closer the relationship of the child to the abuser, the larger the impact on the child. Finally, negative and non-supportive reactions from persons to whom children disclose (disbelief, denial, making excuses) cause negative effects on how the children respond as well as on their healing process.

KENTUCKY REVISED STATUTE

All adults who have any reason to suspect child abuse are legally required to contact Child Protective Services (CPS) and make a report. This is a mandatory reporting law that obligates all adults to make a report within 24 hours of learning about possible abuse.

1-877-KY-SAFE1



Persons acting upon reasonable cause in the reporting of known or suspected adult/child abuse, neglect, or exploitation are immune from civil and criminal liability. This immunity exists with respect to the reporting, the investigation, and any judicial proceedings resulting from the report
[KRS 209.050, KRS 620.050(1)].

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.

11.7.22
St. Patrick

11.14.22
St. Mary Magdalen of Pazzi

11.29.22
St. Albert the Great

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.

It's important to not delay attendance (even if you're unsure when you'll need the training) as we enter inclement weather season, trainings could be postponed or cancelled due to bad weather.



Responding if a Child Tells You About Abuse

If a child discloses abuse, how you respond could be as important as anything else that will follow. It is critical for you to stay calm, listen carefully, and be a source of safety and support. Allow the child to share at his or her own pace, using his or her own language. Do not press the child for details or make remarks that question the child's experience. Just let the story unfold. Then report the incident to Child Protective Services or law enforcement. Consult with your child's doctor immediately if you find out about sexual abuse or assault to determine if your child should be seen at an emergency department or at the Child Advocacy Center.



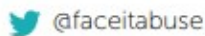
Call Kentucky's Child Protection Hotline (toll free) at

1-877-KYSAFE1(597-2331)

or use the online reporting system at www.reportitky.org.

Always call 911 if a child is in imminent danger and needs immediate protection.

Go to faceitabuse.org to learn more about the Face It® movement and how you can be the face that ends child abuse and neglect.



The Archdiocese of Louisville is proud to partner with the Face It Movement and Kosair Charities. Through the generosity of the Kosair Charities "FaceIt" grant, our Catholic schools have funds to support the "Speak Up Be Safe" curriculum in our Archdiocesan elementary schools.

Childhelp Speak Up Be Safe is an evidence-based curriculum program with developmentally appropriate lessons to help students prevent, interrupt, and speak up about various types of child abuse—physical, emotional, sexual, neglect, bullying, and cyberabuse.



Grades Pre-K - 2: A primary focus for the earliest age groups is emphasizing that adults are responsible to keep children safe. Students learn basic concepts of personal safety and how to identify safe adults in their lives.

Grades 3 - 5: Lessons emphasize that adults are responsible for child safety and that, by learning and using a few key safety rules, children can help those adults keep them safe. Students learn how to recognize potentially unsafe situations. They identify their safe adults and practice using the safety rules.

Grades 6 - 8: While adults continue to be responsible for child safety, lessons acknowledge the growing responsibilities and privileges of students in this age group that can present opportunities for potentially unsafe situations. Students learn to recognize possible risks and practice resistance strategies they can use until they can talk to a safe adult

MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

With the school year in full swing, it's hard to believe we are nearing the end of the fall sports season and the beginning of winter sports.

An always a popular sport in our area is basketball with multiple teams at just about every school.



Before too long many of you will know who is coaching your child (no matter the sport), but do you know if they are safe environment compliant?

Anyone working regularly with children must have attended an in person safe environment training workshop and have a current Archdiocese of Louisville issued background check with satisfactory results.

Recertification must happen every five years. Meaning attendance at an in person training (or an online refresher) and a new background check.

Feel free to reach out to your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator to see if your child's coach/mentor is Safe Environment compliant.

If you don't know who that is or have questions in general regarding compliance, please contact 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

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.

WHY SAFE ENVIRONMENT?

- This training emerged from the reforms of 2002 contained in the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which sought to address the terrible reports of priests and other Church leaders who abused children. No child should ever be abused, especially by someone whose task it is to nurture that child's faith. In addition to many other reforms, the Charter very wisely called all U.S. dioceses to provide education and training on the issue of childhood sexual abuse for persons of all ages.
- Sexual abuse happens in all segments of society, and 80% of all abused children were abused by parents or other family members.
- The Church is a very large youth-serving organization. We know that one out of four girls and one out of six boys will be abused by the time they reach adulthood. Even if a priest never abused any children, we should be doing this training anyway.
- Because we do live training in the Archdiocese, we are able to interact with thousands of individuals (nearly 60,000 since the training started in 2003). After the training, we have people lining up to tell their stories. At one session, we were told of the arrest of a father who had been abusing his children because one of his adult children attended a safe environment training and felt empowered to report. Others talk to us about their abuse as children. They tell us how the class helped them to recognize that they need help, and we are able to refer them to the assistance they need. Many attendees who come in with skeptical expressions and crossed arms leave with heartfelt thanks for all they learned.
- This training also helps adults who may not have experienced abuse in their own lives recognize the signs of abuse in children they may encounter, whether that abuse happens in the context of the Church, a sports program, or a neighborhood. Many adults are not fully aware of their responsibility to report. In this training, they learn of the mandated reporting laws for all adults in Kentucky to report child abuse, and they learn how to do it.
- The education and empowerment that results from this kind of training, as well as the education provided to children and youth, is one way that we can help to bring about systemic change to combat sexual abuse in our community.