



# Honor Thy Children

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

## Safe



## Environment

...is everyone's responsibility

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 instituted a "safe environment" program to ensure that children and youth who worship, study, or participate in Church programs can do so safely.

*The Archdiocese will conduct regular training for parents, clergy, educators, volunteers, and other Church personnel involved with minors. This training will address child abuse, including sexual abuse, and will focus on what child abuse is, how to prevent child abuse, how to identify instances of child abuse, and how to report child abuse. This training is to be renewed every five years.*

*Church personnel (clergy, employees, and volunteers) who work with children must attend an in-person session for their first training. After this initial training, Church personnel may attend an online program provided by Catholic Mutual or attend an in-person session for their five-year renewals.*

### COMPLIANCE IS SIMPLE MATH

Archdiocese of Louisville in-person training + 5 year refresher  
+ five year background check = COMPLIANCE

Are you  
compliant?



Archdiocese of  
Louisville

August/September  
Back 2 School

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.pcaoin.org](http://www.pcaoin.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.

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!

Honor Thy Children

# Back to School Safety Tip

## Helping Kids Feel Safe Away from Home

As children return to school, many will also be spending more time away from home—at a friend's house after school or on weekend sleepovers. Even if you dropped your child off hours ago and everything seems fine, be prepared for the possibility that they may call and want to come home.

The most important thing is that children feel safe and know they can always ask for help. Remind them often: *"You can call me anytime if you want to come home—no questions, no pressure, no embarrassment."*

Here are some simple ways to prepare your child before they leave:

✓ **Create a code word or phrase.** Agree on a subtle signal they can use on the phone if they want to be picked up—something like, *"Let's go shopping"* or asking about a pet.

✓ **Offer to check in.** If your child has a cell phone, ask if they'd like you to call or text during their visit. Reassure them that they can reach out at any time.

✓ **Have a backup plan.** If you'll be away from home while your child is gone, coordinate with another trusted adult—such as a relative, neighbor, or close friend—who can pick them up if needed.

✓ **Be a safe host.** If you're the one hosting, place nightlights in important areas like the bathroom, stairways, and hallways. Let kids know how to find your room and that it's always okay to wake you if they need help.



## October is Domestic Violence Prevention month & our friends at Face It remind us of the Ten-4 rule and how to take action...

**TEN-4-FACESp Bruising Rule**  
Kids are kids, and sometimes they play in ways that result in minor cuts, scrapes, and bruises. These minor injuries are often found on bony areas of the body like knees, shins, elbows, and foreheads. However, there are other types of bruises that should be a red flag for possible abuse.

When is bruising concerning for abuse in children younger than 4 years of age? If bruising in any of the three components - Regions, Infants, Patterns - is present, strongly consider evaluating for child abuse and/or consulting with an expert in child abuse.

REGIONS	
<b>"TEN"</b> Torso   Ears   Neck	<b>"FACES"</b> Frenulum Angle of Jaw Cheeks (fleshy part) Eyelids Subconjunctivae

INFANTS	PATTERNS
<b>"4"</b> = infants ages 4 months and younger	<b>"p"</b> = patterned bruising

TEN-4-FACESp is a useful acronym to help screen children under 4 years of age with bruising to identify when a bruise is more likely to be caused by abuse than accidental injury. The TEN-4-FACESp is not intended to diagnose abuse. Scan the QR code to learn more.

**1. Stay calm and conversational if you notice bruising on a child.**

- Color, shape, location, and size of the bruising.
- What the child or parent says happened.
- A list of all questions you asked.
- Ask non-leading questions, such as:
  - What happened?
  - Where were you when it happened?
  - Did an adult see it happen?

**2. Refrain from asking specific questions or jumping to conclusions.** Professionals with appropriate training will handle the investigation.

**3. Make the report.** Contact Child Protective Services at 1-877-KYSAFE1 or 1-877-597-2331

## UPCOMING SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAININGS

As you can see, required in-person Safe Environment Trainings are underway.

These important training sessions are designed to promote a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all—this training, along with an Archdiocese of Louisville-issued background check, is mandatory for anyone working with children. Even if you think you will be working with children in the future, but are unsure, you're strongly encouraged to take advantage of these upcoming sessions.

All trainings begin promptly at 630p (unless otherwise noted) and **children under 16 will not be admitted given the content discussion.**

**10.2.25**  
St. Patrick

**10.6.25**  
St. James (E-Town)

**10.20.25**  
Flaget

Additional trainings are being scheduled for November and December and will be posted when confirmed.

Remember, trainings are subject to postponement due to weather, etc.

It's best not to wait if you think you will be serving in your parish or school.



A big thank you to **St. Bernard, St. Margaret Mary, and the Flaget Center** for hosting our September Safe Environment trainings. With record numbers attending, their hospitality helped make these important sessions possible.



Why in-person training matters? Live meeting face-to-face allows us to share stories and hear from participants directly. It also connects survivors to resources & support while changing skepticism into understanding and gratitude.



In-person trainings have a real impact. One family reported abuse after feeling empowered following a training. Additionally, many adults, sometimes for the first time, recognize their responsibility to report suspected abuse—and learn exactly how to do it. Participants leave better prepared to protect children in parishes, schools, sports, and neighborhoods.



## Grooming

*Adults who sexually abuse children seek out vulnerable children - children who 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.*

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.

Adult abusers often distort love and affection 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 redefinitions 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.

**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)

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.

# QUESTIONS?

We've got answers...



*I've already participated in another safe environment training in another Archdiocese. Will that satisfy my requirements with the Archdiocese of Louisville?*

We do not accept another diocese's training as we review our Archdiocese of Louisville-specific "Code of Conduct" in our training.

*I have a background check not older than five years issued from a parish within the Archdiocese of Louisville. I will be transferring to another parish within the Archdiocese of Louisville. Do I need to submit another background check?*

No, if the background check was issued within the last five years from a parish/school within the Archdiocese it can be transferred to your new parish/school. See your Safe Environment Coordinator for more information.

*I attended the in-person training and would like to take the online refresher course. Where can I get started?*

See your parish/school Safe Environment coordinator. Once they verify and document your in-person training, document in their local database, and ensure your background check is up to date, they will send you a link to complete the training.