



Honor Thy Children

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

Child Abuse

Would you know what to do?



If a child approached you and said they'd been abused—would you know what to do?
Would you know who to call? How would you respond?

Did you know that in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, you are legally obligated to report any suspected abuse?

These are just a few of the questions adults face when a child reports abuse. They're addressed during the Archdiocese of Louisville's mandatory initial in-person Safe Environment training.

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.

**Archdiocese of
Louisville**

**October
2025**

**If you need support or
someone to talk to:**

- ☺ Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky or Indiana:
800.CHILDREN/
800.422.4453
www.pcaky.org
www.pcain.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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REPORTING ABUSE

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.



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)].

The Protection Acts provide that privileged relationships are not grounds for excluding evidence except in two situations. Neither psychiatrist-patient privilege nor the husband-wife privilege shall be grounds for excluding evidence regarding abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Only lawyer- client privilege and clergy-penitent privilege are excluded [KRS 209.060, KRS 620.050(2)].

The report to CPS should include the following information, if known:

- Name and address of the child, or of any person responsible for the child's care.
- Nature and extent of the suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation, including any evidence of previous abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
- Identity of the perpetrator.
- Name and address of the reporter (optional).
- Where the child can be found and any information you have about the location of the suspected abuser.

**To report abuse
call the statewide hotline**

1-877-KYSAFE1 (1-877-597-2331)



UPCOMING SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAININGS

These trainings, 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.**

11.3.25
St. Joseph (Bardstown)

11.10.25
St. Margaret Mary

11.11.25
Catholic Enrichment
Center
(4 PM START)

11.15.15
St. Helen (Glasgow)
**SPANISH SPEAKING
ONLY
930a (CT) Start**

12.1.25
St. Margaret Mary

1.6.26
Flaget

Additional trainings are being scheduled for January and February and will be posted when confirmed.

CODE OF CONDUCT

No child or adult should ever experience abuse by a trusted adult. Every person has the right to be treated with dignity and to expect that our Church reflects the goodness of God in all its actions.

We hope this information is helpful to everyone in our communities who are working to prevent and respond to childhood sexual abuse. We have aimed to be as clear as possible about our assistance to victims, our reporting procedures, and

our education and prevention efforts. Because parishes, schools, and other Church



organizations sponsor so many programs and services, the Catholic Church is a major youth-serving organization in our community. As such, we must model effective safeguards and proactive

initiatives in our Safe Environment programming. Our Code of Conduct is designed to help

employees and volunteers who work with young people use good judgment and follow best practices in their ministries. Below you will find examples of appropriate and inappropriate conduct.

These policies apply to ministry- or employment-related circumstances and should be understood in that context. Obvious exceptions exist for employees and volunteers with their own families.

CODE OF CONDUCT

These are just a few examples, more are listed in the "Restoring Trust" booklet given to members at the mandatory initial in-person training

- Ensure that all activities (extracurricular, catechetical, youth ministry, scouting, athletics, etc.) for which you are responsible have been approved in advance by the appropriate administrator.
- Refrain from giving inappropriate or expensive gifts to young people
- Never use alcohol when engaged in ministering to minor.
- Avoid driving alone in a vehicle with a young person.
- Release young people only to parents or guardians, unless the parent or guardian has provided permission allowing release to another adult.
- Obtain written parental permission, including a signed medical release form, before taking minors away from the parish, school, or agency for events, field trips, etc. Permission slips should include the type, location, dates, and times of the activity and emergency contact numbers.

HELP

There are numerous resources available for those who've encountered or are experiencing abuse

**Archdiocese of Louisville
(502) 636-1044**

Provides services and assistance through the Victim Assistance Coordinator

**Center for Women & Families
(844) 237-2331**

Toll-Free Crisis Line
provides trauma informed advocacy and support for individuals, families, and communities affected by intimate partner violence and sexual assault.

**Family & Children's Place
(502) 893-3900**

Provides broad-based family counseling and services for child and adult victims of violence and families in which a child has been sexually abused by an adult family member or adolescent.

**Seven Counties Service
(502) 589-1100**

Provides treatment and counseling for victims and offenders.

**Silverleaf Sexual Trauma Recovery Services
(270) 234-9236**

Provides services to victims of sexual abuse and rape in Breckinridge, Grayson, Hardin, Larue, Marion, Meade, Nelson and Washington counties.

**For additional referrals feel free to reach out to
Martine Siegel
Victim Assistance Coordinator
(502) 636-1044
msiegel@archlou.org**

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

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.

ADULT/CHILD INTERACTION

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. The checklist below offers 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.