



# Honor Thy Children

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

## LOCAL FACE IT MOVEMENT OFFERS CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS RESOURCES

When it comes to combating child abuse in Kentucky Kosair Charities and the "face it" movement are working hard on many fronts to include a generous grant offered to Archdiocese of Louisville Schools that funds our Speak Up/Be Safe Child Abuse Prevention program taught to elementary school students. As we approach April and Child Abuse Prevention Month, it's important to

remember that we all have a role to play in keeping communities safe for kids to grow and thrive. The "face it" movement, an initiative founded and funded by Kosair Charities, directly addresses the unacceptable incidences of child abuse and neglect in Kentucky by promoting best practices in child abuse prevention and intervention, building awareness and engaging the community, and

advocating for effective policies to improve the child welfare system. During the month of April, "face it" will be hosting a series of events and trainings, sharing free resources for the community, promoting child safety tips and family engagement ideas, and more. Please find below listed trainings throughout the month of April.

**Week of March 29 - Supporting Families:** Launch Virtual Bingo for families to review Face It resources and engage in family activities throughout April.

**Wednesday, March 31 at 12:00 PM EST:** Kick-Off to Child Abuse Prevention Month with Kosair Charities Face It Movement (watch via Facebook Live)

**Week of April 5: Recognizing and Reporting Maltreatment**

**Tuesday, April 6 at 2:00 PM EST:** Support Over Silence for KIDS Training for Adults - Details and waiting-list registration here.

**Wednesday, April 7 at 12:00 PM EST:** Preventing Child Sexual Abuse in Your Faith-Based Communities - A training with Ministry Safe that is open to all agencies and organizations, including all faith-based organizations from any denomination - Details and registration here.

**Friday, April 9 at 10:00 AM EST:** Pediatric Abusive Head Trauma Prevention and TEN-4 Training for Oral Health Professionals with the Delta Dental of Kentucky - Details on free CEs and registration here.

**Week of April 12 - Honoring Fathers and Father-Figures:** Launch of a new resource for parents and caregivers, 10 Activities to Engage with your Infant and Toddler. More details to come.



*See page 2 for more events during the second half April*

## Archdiocese of Louisville

March 2021

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

# KENTUCKY LEADERS GET TOUGHER ON SEXUAL EXPLICIT MATERIAL INVOLVING MINORS.

This month in Frankfort, Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear signed into law House Bill 254 that increased the penalty for possessing, viewing or wantonly distributing matter portraying a sexual performance by a minor under the age of 12 years to a class C felony. The measure was brought forth by Representative Derek Lewis of London. Under the provisions of HB 254, offenders who wantonly distribute this matter will be charged with a class C felony for the first offense, and a class B felony for each subsequent offense.

"As a father, this issue is particularly meaningful because we know that child sexual abuse exists in epidemic proportions. These materials normalize sick, inhumane acts, further victimize young children and cause irreparable harm to our most vulnerable," Lewis said. "HB 254 helps us fight child abuse and human trafficking, it is high time

we stepped up to provide law enforcement with more resources."

Representative Lewis also offered his appreciation to Heather Wagers who oversees the Office of Trafficking and Abuse Prevention and Prosecution in Attorney General Daniel Cameron's Office.

"We are committed to fighting back against child exploitation in Kentucky, and the bipartisan passage of House Bill 254 allows us to further protect Kentucky's children by enhancing penalties against predators who possess, view, or distribute child sexual abuse material of a minor under 12," said Attorney General Cameron. "I appreciate the work of Representative Derek Lewis, each of the bill's co-sponsors, and members of the House of Representatives for unanimously passing this important piece of legislation."

## FACE IT CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION FREE RESOURCES (CONT.)

### Week of April 26 - Celebrating, Healing, and Looking Ahead

- **Monday, April 26 at 3:30 PM EST:** Mindfulness & Self-Care Workshop with Aetna Better Health of Kentucky on (watch via Facebook Live)
- **Wednesday, April 28 at 10:00 AM EST:** Kentucky Youth Advocates' Advocate Virtual Forum with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. More details to come.
- **Wednesday, April 28 at 3:30 PM EST:** Keeping Kids Safe in a Digital World Panel Discussion
- **Thursday, April 29 at 1:00 PM EST:** Survivor Strong - Healing & Reclaiming Life After Childhood Abuse

Follow the Face It Movement on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram throughout the month for safety tips, event highlights, parenting inspiration, and more.

For information on registering for any of these events call (502) 895.8167 or email [info@faceitabuse.org](mailto:info@faceitabuse.org)

## UPCOMING TRAININGS

In accordance with local, state and federal guidance amid the Covid-19 outbreak, all Safe Environment Trainings continued to be limited to **50** people. If this changes we will get word out to all parish/school Safe Environment Coordinators as well as post to [www.archlou.org/safe](http://www.archlou.org/safe)

Attendance is on a first come/ first served basis.

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

Masks are required and must be worn properly (over the nose and mouth) during the duration of the training

*(We do have some extras, but participants are encouraged to bring their own)*

**4.6.21**  
Incarnation

**4.18.21 - (2:15 PM)**  
**(SPANISH SPEAKING ONLY)**  
St. Edward

**4.29.21**  
St. Albert

**5.10.21**  
Incarnation

**6.14.21**  
St. Albert

More trainings are being scheduled for April, May and into June. Capacity could be increased once local authorities say it is safe to do so.

Keep checking [www.archlou.org/safe](http://www.archlou.org/safe) for updates



# HOW CHILDREN ARE EFFECTED BY SEXUAL 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.

## EFFECTS OF ABUSE ON CHILDREN

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.

The closer the relationship of the child to the abuser, the larger the impact on the child.

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.



## SAFE ENVIRONMENT POP QUIZ

### TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!

As the soccer coach, John (one of your players) is still waiting after practice. His friend Paul's parents (who you know) arrive and say John's parents called and asked them to bring John home. What do you do?

See page 4 for the answer



## MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

As activities begin to ramp up in schools and parishes, we're seeing a noticeable increase at our Safe Environment trainings. This validates the good work we're doing to keep our children safe.

Remember you don't have to wait until you officially need to become safe environment compliant.

If you think you may be working regularly with children down the road you are welcome to attend any Safe Environment training session.

There are times our office will receive calls from members who have been called upon to serve, but put off the training only to be told they can't begin to serve until they've completed the training.

If you haven't already, make plans to attend an upcoming training!

As we emerge from the COVID 19 pandemic, there will no doubt be a rush heading into the school year.

Summer is a great time to attend a course prior to the busyness that accompanies a new school year.

Should you have any questions on compliance or safe environment in general feel free to contact:

**Scott Fitzgerald**  
Archdiocese of Louisville  
Coordinator of  
Safe Environment Services  
sfitzgerald@archlou.org  
502.471.2132





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) 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.

## WHAT TO DO WHEN A CHILD DISCLOSES ABUSE TO YOU

It is highly unlikely for children to make false allegations of sexual abuse. Therefore, when a child reports incidences of abuse or other suspicious behavior, we should presume the child is telling the truth. Children are more likely to report abuse when they know their telling will lead to protection. In some cases,

the abuse cannot be substantiated. An unsubstantiated disclosure does not mean that the child is being untruthful. Rather, it means that there is not enough collaborating evidence to support the child's story. Recanting is also predictable when a child discloses. Some children recant their disclosures

when parents get upset, police are called, crisis escalates, or loss occurs. It is eerie for a child when the things occur that the abuser foretold, which can prompt the child to recant. Below are some helpful hints to help guide you should a child disclose abuse.



**Respond by being honest and direct.** Acknowledge the child's courage in disclosing and ask what it is he or she hopes will happen. Provide the child with as much information as possible and allow the child some age appropriate choices about the process.

**Assure the child that you will do everything possible to keep him or her safe.** When children accidentally disclose, know that they will be much more fearful than children who purposefully disclose. Children who accidentally disclose are highly reluctant for the information to be passed on any further. Be empathic about their reluctance, while letting them know that you must follow the law.

**Inform children of the law, of your legal obligations,** and of the reporting process. In some instances, explaining that you have a legal obligation to report the information relieves the child that he or she is not responsible for breaking the silence.

**Don't make promises you can't keep.** Children who disclose often begin by testing you. They share parts of their story without giving all the details. It is not your job to investigate or substantiate what happened. Rather your response- ability is to make a report to those who are trained to decide whether or not to investigate. Details of the abuse are not necessary in making a report. Praise the child's courage for telling you and explain that you will do your best to protect him or her. Do not, however, make promises that you cannot keep.

*These are just a few recommendations. Remember Kentucky is a mandatory reporting state and you **MUST** report any suspicious abuse by calling 1-877-KY-SAFE1 or reaching out to local law enforcement. Should you have any questions surrounding disclosure you're welcome to contact Martine Siegel, Archdiocese of Louisville Victim Assistance Coordinator at 502.636.1044 or via email ([msiegel@archlou.org](mailto:msiegel@archlou.org)).*

### **SAFE ENVIRONMENT POP QUIZ ANSWER**

*If you answered "wait until the I either talk to John's parent's or they pick him up", you are correct! Page 37 of the code of conduct states "Release young people only to parents or guardians, unless the parent or guardian has provided permission allowing release to another adult."*