



# Honor Thy Children

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

## MONIES ARE BEING MADE AVAILABLE DURING CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

April is child abuse prevention month in Kentucky and while Kentucky may again have the highest rates of Child Abuse in the nation, money is being made available on a number of levels throughout the Commonwealth. Attorney General Daniel Cameron announced this month more than \$166,000 was being made available to Child Abuse Prevention programs throughout the state. All grant money is awarded via the Child Victim's Trust Fund run by the Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention Board withing the AG's office. "Kentucky's children deserve happy and healthy childhoods," Cameron stated. "Providing organizations with the resources necessary to implement child sexual



abuse prevention programs is part of a larger endeavor by our office to end child abuse and neglect in the Commonwealth. I commend each of these organizations for their efforts to protect Kentucky's kids, and I

appreciate the work of the Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention Board throughout the grant process." Archdiocese of Louisville Superintendent of Catholic schools Leisa Schulz recently announced through the generosity of the Kosair Charities "FaceIt" grant, the "Speak Up Be Safe" curriculum would be funding Catholic elementary schools for the upcoming 2021-22 school year.

"Speak Up/Be Safe" helps children and teens learn the skills to prevent or interrupt cycles of neglect, bullying, and child abuse—physical, emotional,

and sexual. Each Catholic elementary school will receive a check through the 2020-21 Kosair Charities "Face It" grant to assist with funding the program for the upcoming 2021-22 school year. Schools will receive checks based on their 2020-21 Grade K-8 enrollment. Schulz added that her office we will be requesting funding through the 2021-22 Kosair Charities "Face It" grant program to support the full cost of implementing this program for all of our Catholic elementary schools for 2022-23. They anticipate notification about our 2021-22 grant in Fall 2021/Winter 2022.



### Archdiocese of Louisville

April 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.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!

Kids don't come with instruction manuals. Parenting is tough, and caring for a child is one of the most important jobs a parent can do. This includes keeping a child safe from harm.

The more prepared we feel as we raise children, the more we are able to handle upsets and surprises.



For information & resources visit [www.faceitabuse.org](http://www.faceitabuse.org)

# CONNECT

CONNECTING ON SEVERAL LEVELS WILL GO A LONG WAY IN PREVENTING ABUSE

**C** **CALL FOR HELP:** We can all use a helping hand sometimes. Reach out for help when you or your family needs it. No matter what is going on in your life or the lives of your family members, it is helpful to be prepared with National and Local Hotline information in case of a crisis or emergency.

**O** **OFFER ONE-ON-ONE OPPORTUNITIES:** Schedule one-on-one time with each of your children - if only for 5-10 minutes each day where the focus is on that one child. Normalize that it's ok to not be happy all the time. Help your child take note of the times that you and your family are happy.

**N** **NAVIGATE YOUR NETWORKS:** Use community resources like schools, libraries, neighbors, and more to connect to people and places that can provide support to your family. Many are available through online platforms!

**N** **NOTICE TRIGGERS AND TAKE BREAKS:** Learn which behaviors, and words that might help you identify your child's impending meltdown or tantrum. Remember, children & teens react (in part) based on what they see from the adults around them. When you're calm, you can provide the best support.

**E** **EAT TOGETHER:** Family meals create opportunities for sharing about the day, catching up, and discussing highlights and struggles. Get your kids involved in preparing meals, not just eating the meals you prepare. Cooking together can bring a family together.

**C** **CARE FOR YOURSELF:** Caregivers cannot pour from an empty cup, so it is important to take care of yourself, too. Practice self-care. Listen to your favorite song, read, meditate, or enjoy a favorite activity. When we can take time to care for ourselves, we are in our best form to care for those we love.

**T** **TAKE TIME TO TALK:** Find time to talk with your child about their friendships, what they enjoy doing, and what they want to do when they grow up. Instead of asking questions like, "how was your day, try questions like: "what was your favorite part of today?" "would you like to have a do-over for any part of today?"

*Guidance courtesy of the faceit movement*

## 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)*

5.10.21  
Incarnation

5.19.21  
St. Gabriel

6.1.21  
St. Gabriel

6.14.21  
St. Albert

6.15.21  
St. Joseph (Bardstown)

More trainings are being scheduled into July and will pick up as we get closer to the new school year in August

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



# WHAT IS CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE?

In order to prevent child sexual abuse, we need to understand what it is.

Child abuse, including child sexual abuse, has occurred throughout our society for many years. After several years of decline, child abuse appears to be on the rise again and child sexual abuse is a significant aspect of this increase<sup>1</sup>. Child abuse is widespread. It cuts across all cultures, religions, and socioeconomic groups. It is estimated that approximately one in four girls and one in six boys are sexually abused by the time they are 18 years of age. Many people are well into adulthood before something triggers in them a need to reveal childhood sexual abuse. Because childhood sexual abuse is traumatic, many will suppress these memories out of pain and survival, only to recall later what actually happened. This is a common scenario in post traumatic stress disorders (PTSD). Many, out of shame, will unfortunately never report the abuse. It is estimated that only 10% of victims report their abuse, which is a

fraction of the sexual abuse that actually occurs.

Simply stated, child sexual abuse is defined as any adult interaction with a child for the purpose of meeting the sexual needs of an adult. Sexual abuse can be physical, verbal, auditory, or visual and therefore does not necessarily require physical contact between the abuser and the child. For example, watching a child undress, take a shower, or go to the bathroom for the purpose of creating sexual arousal would be child sexual abuse. Other non-physical behaviors include an adult exposing his or her sexual organs to a child and speaking to a child about things of a sexual nature that are inappropriate for the child's age. Viewing, possessing, or distributing child pornography is criminal and is a form of sexual abuse that is becoming an increasing problem in our society.



## MYTH VS. FACT

In addition to acknowledging what child sexual abuse is, it is important to dispel myths concerning child sexual abuse

**MYTH:** Strangers are responsible for most child abuse

**FACT:** Most child abuse, including sexual abuse, is perpetrated by someone known to the child.

**MYTH:** Most sexual abusers are homosexuals.

**FACT:** Most sexual abusers are male, and the vast majority are heterosexual.

**MYTH:** Children usually lie about sexual abuse

**FACT:** The rate of false reporting, or lying, about sexual abuse is the same as the incidence of false reporting of any other type of crime.

**MYTH:** Child sexual abuse is more widespread among Catholic clergy than other professions or religious communities.

**FACT:** There is no evidence that child sexual abuse is more or less common in any particular denomination or religion. All evidence suggests that the occurrence of sexual abuse remains the same across religious affiliations, socioeconomic status, or cultural groups.

## MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

As temps begin to warm up and the school year begins to wind down, safe environment isn't exactly at the forefront of most people's attention this time of year.

Our office continues to receive multiple requests for verification of and individual's safe environment compliance. Many times just before the individual begins service in a parish or school, only to find out the member hasn't attended a training.

While we are still scheduling summer Safe Environment trainings, they will be limited due to understandably reduced attendance. Trainings will however increase as we near the new school year.

If you think you will be called to serve over the summer or you just want to gain compliance to avoid the fall rush now is the time to do so. Don't be left out of a chance to serve because you haven't earned compliance.

If you have questions regarding your compliance, please reach out to your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator.

If you don't know who that is or have 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**

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) 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.

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## GETTING TO KNOW THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Because of the many programs and services parishes, schools and other Church organizations sponsor, 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. The Archdiocese of

Louisville Safe Environment "Code of Conduct" is meant to assist employees and volunteers who work with young people to employ good sense and best practices in their ministries. It is an important part of the Safe Environment Training. These policies relate to ministry or employment

related circumstances and should be understood in that context. Obvious exceptions exist for employees and volunteers with families. Below are just some of the items safe environment members are expected to comply with.



### (SOME) OF THE ITEMS CONTAINED WITHIN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE SAFE ENVIRONMENT CODE OF CONDUCT

- Avoid physical contact when alone with a minor. Physical contact with young people can be misconstrued, especially in private settings.
- Avoid being alone with a minor in a residence, rectory, sleeping facility, locker room, rest room, dressing facility, or other closed rooms.
- Avoid driving alone in a vehicle with a young person.
- Avoid meeting privately with minors in areas where there is no window or where the door cannot remain open. If one-on-one pastoral care of a minor is necessary (e.g. Sacrament of Reconciliation), avoid meeting in isolated environments.
- Have an adequate number of adults present at events. A minimum of two adults must always be present during activities for minors.

Again, these are just a few of the code of conduct items that can be found on page 36 of the Archdiocese of Louisville publication "Restoring Trust: The Sexual Abuse Policies of the Archdiocese of Louisville". You can also download a copy at [www.archlou.org](http://www.archlou.org) or by [clicking here](#). If you haven't been to a Safe Environment Training or it's been a while and you would like to refresh yourself on compliance a current list of trainings can always be found at [www.archlou.org/safe](http://www.archlou.org/safe).