Honor Thy Children

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

BACK TO SCHOOL

Safe Envrionment Training



Nearly 250 people turned out at St. Patrick for a September Safe Environment training

Since July over 1,550 have attended the mandatory in-person Safe Environment Training

ANYONE WORKING WITH MINORS MUST HAVE

1 Attendance at a mandatory Archdiocese of Louisville in-person training

2 Archdiocese of Louisville issued satisfactory background check

3 Refresher training if it's been more than five years since last training

Archdiocese of Louisville

September 2026

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!

Make time...

Most victims of sexual abuse were abused by someone they knew or in a place they were familiar with. You can take steps to surround children with safe caregivers in safe environments.

Abusers often become friendly with potential victims and their families, earning trust and gaining time alone with children.

Observe your child with others and listen to your gut. If you feel uncomfortable with the way an adult is interacting with your child, step in.

Ask your babysitter for background checks.

Check that all your child's programs and those adults that work with them are Safe Environment Compliant.



Each parish/school is required to maintain a Safe Environment Coordinator. Feel free to reach out to them and ensure those working with your children are safe environment compliant. If you don't know who that is contact Scott Fitzgerald, Archdiocese of Louisville, Coordinator of Safe Environment Services (sfitzgerald@archlou.org) or 502471.2132

SPEAK UP BE SAFE: GIVING OUR CHILDREN KNOWLEDGE AND A VOICE

Did you know that students in our Archdiocese of Louisville Catholic Schools are learning important lessons about personal safety and preventing abuse? It's through a program called **Speak Up Be Safe**, a Childhelp curriculum taught to our students from Kindergarten through eighth grade. So, what are we teaching? Through age-appropriate lessons, students learn about body safety and privacy, recognize uncomfortable or unsafe situations, understand grooming behaviors, identify safe adults, and know how to speak up when something doesn't feel right.

And there's an important message behind it all: Children deserve to be safe, adults are responsible for helping protect them, and children should never be afraid to ask for help. Why is that important?

Because children don't always recognize when a situation is unsafe—or know what to do when it happens. Speak Up Be Safe helps give them the knowledge, language, and confidence to recognize potential risks and reach out to a safe adult.

And these lessons aren't about teaching children to be afraid. They're about empowering them.

As students grow, the curriculum builds on those safety concepts to address the situations and challenges they may encounter at different ages.

So, when we talk about creating safe environments in our Catholic schools, it's not just about the policies and procedures we have in place.

It's also about giving our children the knowledge and confidence to speak up—and making sure they know adults will listen when they do. Through age-appropriate lessons, students learn about body safety and privacy, recognize uncomfortable or unsafe situations, understand grooming behaviors, identify safe adults, and know how to speak up when something doesn't feel right.

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*A special and heartfelt **thank you to Kosair for Kids** for their generous grant supporting the Speak Up Be Safe program in our Catholic schools.*

Because of their generosity, our students are receiving important, age-appropriate tools to help them recognize unsafe situations, speak up and seek help.

Grades K–2: Students learn that adults are responsible for keeping them safe and how to recognize trusted adults they can turn to.

Grades 3–5: Students learn key safety rules, recognize potential risks and practice ways to contribute to their own safety, while knowing adults remain responsible for their protection.

Grades 6–8: Students learn to recognize potential risks, practice resistance strategies and seek help from a safe adult when faced with an unsafe situation.

Upcoming Trainings

Check www.archlou.org/safe for the most up-to-date schedule.

All trainings begin at 630 p.m. unless otherwise noted

10.6.26
St. Gabriel

10.10.26
(SPANISH SPEAKING ONLY)
St. Rita
(9:30 a.m.)

10.14.26
(4:30 PM START)
Catholic Enrichment Center

10.20.26
St. Aloysius-PV

10.26.26
St. Joseph (Bardstown)

11.10.26
St. Bernard (Louisville)

11.17.26
St. Athanasius

12.10.26
Flaget

Trainings are scheduled to cancellation/ post-ponement due to inclement weather, etc.

It's best not to wait until the last minute to attend, especially in the heavy weather months.



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.

See something...
...say something

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.

Below are 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.

Allows children or teens to consistently get away with inappropriate behaviors.