

Archdiocese of Detroit Safe Environments Initiatives

The Archdiocese of Detroit has in place the following initiatives designed to promote creation and maintenance of safe environments for children, the elderly and persons with disabilities. We strive to increase awareness of safe programs and surroundings and to empower children, youth and adults to avoid and report unsafe or harmful situations.

AOD SAFE ENVIRONMENTS POLICY

Adopted in April 2006, and revised in October 2007, the current Archdiocesan Safe Environments Policy specifies requirements for Criminal History Background Checks, Teen Background Certification, and attendance at *Protecting God's Children for Adults* or *Called to Serve* (for teens) workshops.

CALLED TO PROTECT FOR YOUTH

Personal safety instruction program for teens in Catholic high schools (grade 9). Program addresses boundaries – physical, emotional and behavioral – and how to recognize, stop and act if someone attempts to violate personal boundaries. CTP meets USCCB training requirements.

CALLED TO SERVE

The AOD Safe Environments Policy specifies teen employees, and volunteers who work with children, must attend safe environments training. Called to Serve focuses on and enhances the following skills: working with and role modeling for children; communicating and working with adult supervisors; interacting appropriately with peers; recognizing and responding to inappropriate behavior. This program will also be used in Catholic high schools (grade 10) as part of required safe environment training.

CIRCLE OF GRACE

Created by the Archdiocese of Omaha, Circle of Grace is the recommended personal safety education curriculum for use in all religious education programs. It will be provided to all parishes at no cost. All religious education program students must receive training every year and Circle of Grace meets this USCCB requirement. COG is an approved alternative for safety training for Catholic elementary and high schools.

CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS & TEEN BACKGROUND CERTIFICATION

Anyone 18 or over who may have contact with children, the elderly, or persons with disabilities must submit to a background check before starting work or volunteer assignment. School and parishes only look for convictions related to the work or volunteer assignment to which the applicant is assigned. Volunteers and employees under age 18 will sign a Background Certification Form indicating any misdemeanor or felony convictions. The teens' parent(s) or guardian(s) must also sign the certification form.

KEEPING KIDS SAFE

A parent-led child safety resource distributed through schools, Religious Education programs and Youth Ministry. The brochure is intended as a tool for parents to use in discussing personal safety with their children. It includes sections on "Best Practices for Parents/Guardians", "What to Discuss with Children" and "What to Discuss with Youth", and tips for opening these discussions. Schools and parishes order *Keeping Kids Safe* from the AOD Office for Printing & Mailing. There is no charge for the brochure.

KEEPING THE PROMISE ALIVE™

A 'refresher' workshop intended as a follow-up to *Protecting God's Children*. Keeping the Promise Alive is available to schools and parishes that wish to provide continuing training. There is no charge for the program, and someone from the host site acts as facilitator. All materials are included on the DVD/CD provided. The workshop can be presented in approximately 1½ hours.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN™ FOR ADULTS

Attendance is required within six month of hire or assignment date for anyone who may have contact with children. The three hour workshop builds awareness and empowers attendees to intervene and prevent potentially harmful situations or behavior.

SAFE ENVIRONMENTS PROGRAM TEAM

Group in parish/school/agency charged with creating and critically evaluating programs, procedures, facilities, grounds. The intent is to create and ensure safe environments for children and anyone at-risk while anywhere on the premises, away on field/overnight trips, or participating in parish/school/agency events "at home" or "away" from the property.

THINK FIRST & STAY SAFE!

Part of Catholic schools curriculum beginning 2005-06 school year, for grades K-8. Based on six "Cornerstone" lessons (basic concepts) and 18 "Lures" (affection lure, pet lure, job lure, playmate lure, etc.) This is not sex education or moral teaching – it's about personal safety.

VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT, PASTORAL CODE OF CONDUCT, TEEN CODE ~ PROMISE TO SERVE

Adopted by the Archdiocese of Detroit, the codes of conduct outline acceptable and unacceptable behaviors for all clergy, employees and volunteers. All clergy and employees are to receive the Pastoral Code of Conduct and all volunteers are to be provided with the Volunteer Code of Conduct or Promise to Serve, and all are expected to adhere to the stated practices. Print from www.aodonline.org.

YOU'RE INVITED: HELP US BUILD SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

Brochure for distribution to parish, school, agency employees and volunteers. May also be made available in lobbies, vestibules, etc. An introduction to safe environment initiatives in parishes, schools and agencies. Also contains reporting and contact information. Intended to familiarize new employees and volunteers with local practices; excellent resource for all families, parishioners, etc.