



ROMAN CATHOLIC

DIOCESE of SPRINGFIELD–CAPE GIRARDEAU

Office of Child and Youth Protection

Annual Safe Environment Bulletin/Newsletter Announcement

Noted below are two different announcements: 1) the Procedures for Reporting Abuse and Misconduct, and 2) The Safe Environment requirements for all diocesan personnel—clergy, employees, and adult volunteers.

Every year, we request that the following announcements be published in the parish and school bulletins. This public notification of the reporting procedures is to ensure that the diocese remains compliant with the Norms of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which is typically reviewed during the on-site audit. Please forward a copy of any publications where this appears to the Diocese Office of Child and Youth Protection.

Reporting Procedures of Known or Suspected Abuse and Misconduct

- Any known or suspected abuse or neglect of a minor must first be immediately reported to the **Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 800-392-3738**.
- Any known or suspected abuse or neglect of an adult must first be immediately reported to the **Missouri Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 800-392-0210**.
- In situations of immediate danger, call **911**.
- Known or suspected abuse may also be reported to law enforcement in addition to making a report to the MO Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline or to the MO Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline.

Violations of The Code of Conduct should also be reported to the Director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection at childandyouthprotection@dioscg.org or (417) 866-0841 or through the TIPS online reporting system available on the diocesan website www.dioscg.org.

Violations involving the Bishop should be reported to the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at 800-276-1562 or <https://reportbishopabuse.org/>.

The Safe Environment Policy and Procedures, the Code of Conduct for Clergy, Employees and Adult Volunteers and other important information, including a link to the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People are available on the webpage <https://dioscg.org/child-youth-protection/>.

Requirements for all diocesan personnel—clergy, employees and adult volunteers

The mission and ministry of creating a safe environment for all to flourish and thrive is a responsibility we all share.

Before regularly working or volunteering with minors or vulnerable adults, all diocesan personnel are required to first complete 1) the Safe Environment Training; 2) have a Background Screening conducted; and, 3) submit a signed Code of Conduct.

- The Safe Environment training is now available online after creating an account in the VIRTUS system (through the VIRTUS webpage <https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/>).
- The Code of Conduct, which is required annually, the Background Disclosure and Authorization, and other Safe Environment Policies and required forms are available on the Diocese website, under the Office of Child and Youth Protection <https://dioscg.org/child-youth-protection/>.

Questions about these requirements may be directed to the Office of Child and Youth Protection at 417-866-0841 or by email: childandyouthprotection@dioscg.org.