

Archdiocese of Milwaukee – Safe Environment Education Participant Handout

Protecting God's Children Video 1 – A Time to Protect God's Children

Group Discussion

What are some of your reactions to the video?

What did you learn about perpetrators?

What are some reasons that children do not tell anyone about being abused?

What are some safety concerns regarding young people and their usage of current technology?

Myths and Facts from the Video

Myth: Strangers are responsible for most child sexual abuse.

Fact: Most child molesters are people the parents already know and trust with their children.

Myth: Most sexual abusers are homosexual.

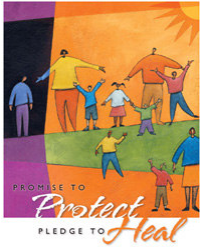
Fact: Most child abusers are heterosexual.

Myth: Children usually lie about child sexual abuse.

Fact: Children very rarely lie about sexual abuse. Less than 5% of allegations turn out to be false.

Myth: Priests abuse children because of their vow of celibacy.

Fact: Celibacy does not cause anyone to become a child molester. The few priests who do perpetrate abuse molest children for the same reasons that other people do.



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Protecting God's Children Video 2 – A Plan to Protect God's Children

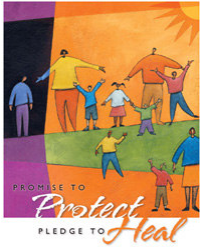
Step One – Know the Warning Signs

1. Discourages other adults from participating or monitoring.
2. Always wants to be alone with young people.
3. More excited to be with children than adults.
4. Gives gifts to children, often without permission.
5. Goes overboard touching.
6. Always wants to wrestle or tickle.
7. Thinks the rules do not apply to them.
8. Allows young people to engage in activities their parents would not allow.
9. Uses bad language or tells dirty jokes to children.
10. Shows young people pornography.

Step Two – Control Access

Tools for Controlling Access to Children

1. Communicate the Church's commitment to keeping children safe.
2. Use written, standard applications.
3. Require criminal background checks.
4. Complete face-to-face interviews.
5. Check references.
6. Monitor and appropriately restrict young people's Internet access.



Step Three – Monitor All Programs

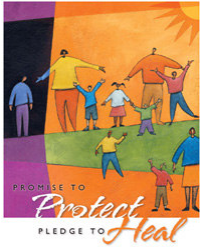
Ways to Monitor Programs

1. Identify secluded areas, lock empty rooms.
2. Develop policies regarding use of secluded areas. For example, staff should check bathrooms before sending children home.
3. Do not permit children to enter staff-only areas.
4. Only meet with children where other adults can have open access.
5. Supervisors should have open access to all programs.
6. Make sure enough adults are involved in programs.
7. Allow parents to have access to all programs.
8. Don't start new programs without approval from appropriate individuals (i.e., pastor, principal).
9. Encourage parental involvement.
10. Make sure that computers are located in open-access areas.
11. Encourage the monitoring of all youth Internet activities as well as the use of appropriate blocking and filtering software.

Step Four – Be Aware

Ways to be Aware

1. Talk to your children.
2. Listen to your children.
3. Observe your children, including their Internet and cell phone use.
4. Let your children know they can tell you anything.
5. Discuss with children where their private parts are and that not all adults or children should see or touch them.
6. Talk to your children often about protecting themselves, including ways to protect themselves when using the Internet and/or other aspects of modern technology.
7. Teach your children what to do if someone tries to touch them.
8. Teach your children what to do if someone makes them uncomfortable.
9. Teach your children what to do if they have an uncomfortable communication or experience online.



Step Five – Communicate Your Concerns

Some Ways to Communicate Your Concerns

1. Talk to the person involved.
2. Speak to their supervisor.
3. Notify a church official.
4. Call the child abuse hotline.
5. Call the police.

Archdiocese of Milwaukee Reference Names and Numbers:

Patti Loehrer
Safe Environment Coordinator
414-769-3449 or loehrerp@archmil.org

Amy Peterson
Victim Assistance Coordinator
414-758-2232 or peterzona@archmil.org

To Report Abuse of a Minor:

Dodge County Department of Human Services - 920-386-3750 or after hours 920-887-6713

Fond du Lac County Department of Social Services - 920-929-3400 or after hours 920-929-3391

Kenosha County Department of Human Services - 262-605-6582 or after hours 262-657-7188

Milwaukee County Department of Child Welfare - 414-220-SAFE(7233) 24 hour service

Ozaukee County Department of Social Services - 262-238-8200 or after hours 262-238-8436

Racine County Human Services Department – 262-638-6321 24 hour service

Sheboygan County Health and Human Services Department – 920-459-6418 or after hours 920-459-3111

Walworth County Department of Social Services – 262-741-3200 or 800-365-1587

Washington County Department of Social Services – 262-335-4888 or 800-616-0446

Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services – 262-548-7212 or after hours 262-547-3388

Or call your local civil authorities.