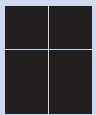


MAINTAINING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

The Catholic Diocese of Wichita maintains a Safe Environment Program designed to prevent, identify, and respond to abuse by providing appropriate education to diocesan personnel and volunteers. This program addresses inappropriate behavior and indicates the warning signs of abusive behavior. The VIRTUS program and the *Code of Ethical Standards for Church Personnel and Volunteers* are integral components of the Safe Environment Program.

Safe Environment awareness training, which is required of all clergy, employees and volunteers who work with youth, is a comprehensive program to prevent child sexual abuse in our Catholic churches, schools and activities. The Diocese of Wichita uses the VIRTUS *Protecting God's Children* program.



Office of Safe Environment
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WICHITA

424 North Broadway · Wichita, Kansas 67202
WEB www.CatholicDioceseOfWichita.org
PHONE 316-269-3900 · FAX 316-269-3902

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The dignity of every human person demands from us an uncompromising commitment to respect and care for them. This is especially true for children and youth. Our Safe Environment Program in the Diocese of Wichita is our effort to ensure that every child and young person under our pastoral care is received and treated as their dignity deserves.



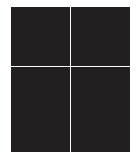
I invite you to read carefully this brochure that you are holding. It spells out our efforts to create a Safe Environment for children in our parishes, schools and other diocesan institutions and their programs. We do this by offering and requiring safe environment training so that many are aware of the signs of child sexual abuse and will take steps to report it. We are committed to following our policies when a complaint is received that a child has been allegedly abused by a person in a position of trust. Together, we must do our part in stopping this scourge in our culture and world.

Thank you for your interest in our Safe Environment ministry and for your participation in understanding, reporting and preventing child abuse.

Bishop Carl A. Kemme D.D.
Bishop of Wichita

Protecting God's Children

Understanding, Reporting, and Preventing Child Abuse



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF WICHITA

Reaching Out To You

We hope to reach out to those who have been sexually abused as minors by anyone serving in the Church.

We will help you obtain support by:

- Providing information about counseling through individual therapy and/or support.
- Providing information about spiritual directors and/or spiritual healing resources.

We promise a compassionate and pastoral response to help in the healing and reconciliation process.

We are open to and respect your complaint.

Both justice and compassion call us to respond to the harm you have experienced from a person in a position of trust. We want to listen and address the hurt that may have occurred when pastoral care was exercised improperly. We will proceed at the pace you set, respecting your need to determine when, how and where you wish to speak.

We offer several options to file a complaint or obtain a copy of the complaint form.

1. To report a case of child abuse to civil authorities, call 911 or the Department for Children and Families at 1-800-922-5330.
2. To report abuse to the diocese, call the Victim Assistance Coordinator at 316-269-3945.
3. Call or visit the Chancery and ask for a copy of the *Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor*. If you would like to speak to someone, please ask for:
Victim Assistance Coordinator
Catholic Diocese of Wichita
424 N. Broadway St., Wichita
316-269-3945.
4. Talk to your parish priest.
5. Download a copy of the complaint form. Visit: CatholicDioceseofWichita.org. Under the “Links & Resources” tab, select “Protection of Youth.”
6. The Catholic Diocese of Wichita’s *Policy on the Suspected Abuse of Children* (November 2015) includes a copy of the complaint form and *Protocol for Receiving, Investigating and Treating a Complaint of Child Sexual Abuse*.

