



Diocese of Fresno

Safe Environment Binder
Clergy, Employees, Volunteers,
Parents, Children, and Youth



2023-2028

To create a safe environment for children is of paramount importance for the Church, and everyone in the Church is responsible for ensuring that this exists. No one can say, “It’s not my job.”

Diocese of Fresno
Safe Environment Coordinator
Lucia Magaña
lmagana@dioceseoffresno.org
1550 N. Fresno St.
Fresno, CA 93703
Tel: (559) 493-2882

Victim Assistance Coordinator
Cheryl Sarkisian
Cheryl@dioceseoffresno.org
1550 N. Fresno St.
Fresno, CA 93703
Tel: (559) 488-7400

Revised 11/22

Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno



Greetings in Our Lord Jesus Christ!

The USCCB's Charter for the protection of Children and Young People provides the foundation for diocesan policies that are implemented and enforced, all for the purpose of creating and maintaining a safe environment within a spirit of cooperation and willingness. This involves receiving education and training on the signs of abuse and knowing how to report suspected child abuse to the proper civil and legal authorities; all for the well-being of the child. Working together, we can make a difference in the life of a child!

I am committed to guiding and supporting the implementation of the Charter in all our parishes and Catholic schools through the Diocesan Safe Environment Office. Faith based safety lessons for all Kindergarten – 12th grade students is a very important part of what is referred to as “Safe Environment.”

Children, youth, and vulnerable adults will be better prepared to keep themselves and others safe and free from harm at all times, in real life and online. The program focuses on personal, social, and cyber safety. It also, provides age appropriate activities, handouts, language, and a doctrinal connection to our faith.

Parents will be given a Compass Child Protection “Parent Handbook” to use as a tool to reinforce the safety messages their children and youth are given. The handbook includes a Safe Environment lesson plan for the parents to do with their children at home. Parents are encouraged to visit the Safe Environment tab on the Diocese of Fresno's web site (www.dioceseoffresno.org) to download various parent resources related to Safe Environment topics. Of course, we hope and pray these resources and all this information will provide safe environments for vulnerable adults as well.

As we join together in this effort to protect our children, young people, and vulnerable adults we will be able to provide a safe, nurturing environment where they may feel secure as they learn and experience the loving presence of our God. May our Blessed Mother intercede for all families throughout this School and Faith Formation Year.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Brennan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Most Reverend Joseph V. Brennan, D.D.
Bishop, Diocese of Fresno



How to Use the Safe Environment Handbook

This Safe Environment Handbook is a comprehensive binder that includes:

1. Mandated Safe Environment Training Information for Clergy, Employees, Volunteers
2. Parent Safe Environment Training (to be done annually)
3. Reporting Forms
4. Step-by-Step guide for Parishes

The Safe Environment training for our clergy, employees, and volunteers is at <https://fresno.safeenvironment.org> . The course is called “Protecting Children in the 21st Century.” The course topics cover 1) Child Abuse 2) Trafficking 3) Technology Safety 4) Bullying and 5) Vulnerable adults. Training is to be completed before (preferred) or within the first 2 weeks of employment or before volunteer service begins. After completing the online training a certificate of completion will be emailed to the parish SE manager and placed in their file with the date of completion entered into the parish Master List.

Awareness will encourage all people to be proactive in responding to the tragic occurrence of child maltreatment and abuse in our society. Ultimately, it is up to every adult to ensure that abuse does not happen to any child or youth and is reported immediately to local law enforcement or Child Protective Services.

If there are any questions contact the diocesan SE Coordinator at (559) 493-2882 or email: lmagana@dioceseoffresno.org

Table of Contents

Part I

Clergy, Employees, Volunteer Training

USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People	5
Safe Environment Requirements	6
Responding to Allegations of Harassment	7-9
Ten Points to Creating a Safe Environment for Children	10-11
Child Abuse Information	12
Reporting Child Abuse	13
Child Welfare Services by County	14
Suspected Child Abuse Report Sample	15

Part II

Parent Safe Environment Training

Parent Training Curriculum	16-19
-----------------------------------	--------------



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People

To Protect the Faithful in the Future

ARTICLE 12. Dioceses/eparchies are to maintain “safe environment” programs which the diocesan/eparchial bishop deems to be in accord with Catholic moral principles. They are to be conducted cooperatively with parents, civil authorities, educators, and community organizations to provide education and training for children, youth, parents, ministers, educators, volunteers, and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children and young people. Dioceses/eparchies are to make clear to clergy and all members of the community the standards of conduct for clergy and other persons in positions of trust with regard to children.

ARTICLE 13. Dioceses/eparchies are to evaluate the background of all incardinated and non-incardinated priests and deacons who are engaged in ecclesiastical ministry in the diocese/eparchy and of all diocesan/eparchial and parish/school or other paid personnel and volunteers whose duties include ongoing, unsupervised contact with minors. Specifically, they are to utilize the resources of law enforcement and other community agencies. In addition, they are to employ adequate screening and evaluative techniques in deciding the fitness of candidates for ordination (cf. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Program of Priestly Formation* [Fifth Edition], 2006, no. 39).

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno

SAFE ENVIRONMENT REQUIREMENTS – AT A GLANCE

CLERGY: All clergy must obtain Faculties from the Bishop in order to minister within the Diocese of Fresno, regardless of their length of stay. Clergy may not stay overnight at a private residence other than the home of a relative. Visiting clergy are expected to stay at the rectory; if not, the hosting parish is to make other appropriate accommodations.

STEP ONE: EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEER APPLICATIONS

An Employment or volunteer Application should be completed and professional and personal references should be contacted.

STEP TWO: BACKGROUND CHECK

Employees and volunteers who will or may have unsupervised contact with minors must be fingerprint cleared. Direct constant supervision must be provided by an adult who meets all Safe Environment requirements until verification of clearance is received.

STEP THREE: BASIC SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

ALL employees must sign the Diocesan Code of Conduct PRIOR to the start of employment. Employees who will have contact with minors must complete Basic Safe Environment Training. ALL volunteers who serve where minors may be present must sign the Diocesan Code of Conduct PRIOR to beginning service. Training is to be completed within the first 2 weeks of employment or before volunteer service begins.

STEP FOUR: SAFE ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION F

K-12 Catholic Safe Environment Curriculum is to be integrated into all religious education programs. It includes K-12 Lesson Plans and a Parent Training. If a parent does NOT want their child to participate in the program, the parent must fill out an “opt-out form” with the parish staff prior to the presentation and the parent must ensure that the child does NOT attend the presentation.

STEP FIVE: SAFE ENVIRONMENT RENEWAL TRAINING

All continuing employees and volunteers who received Basic Safe Environment Training must renew training sessions that will be provided by <https://fresno.safeenvironment.org>, on the Diocesan five- year cycle, regardless of the amount of time that has passed since the initial training (2015, 2018, 2023, 2028etc).

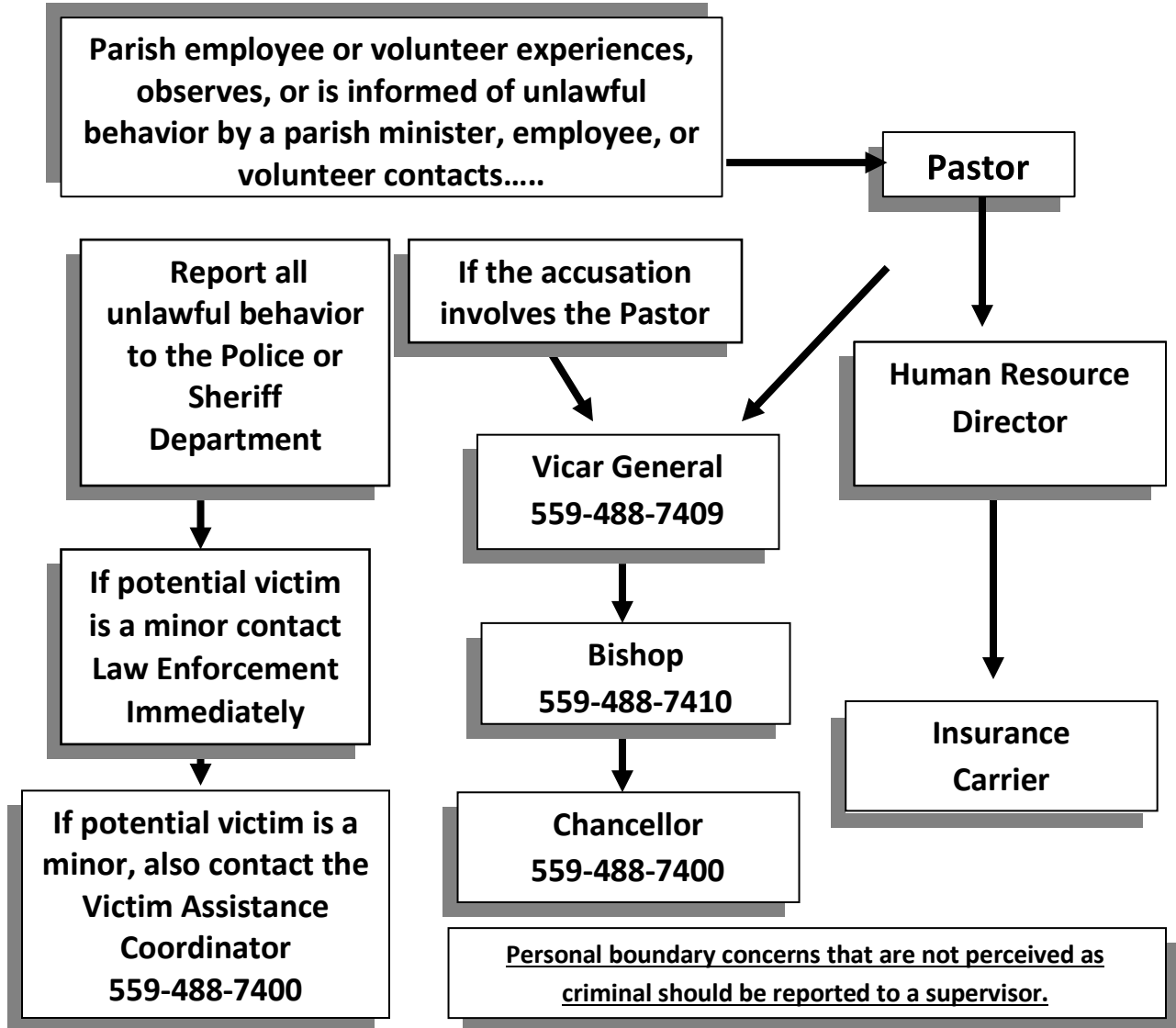
APPROPRIATE SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN ON AND OFF SITE

When there is a parish or diocesan event where children are present, certain precaution must be observed in order to assure the children’s safety. The Safe Environment and Risk Management Offices work to support parishes and schools in this regard and are available for consultation as needed.

- a. When children are accompanied by their parents, the parents are responsible of their safety.
- b. When children are on the same property but in a different location than their parents, someone assigned by the organization must take the responsibility of supervising the children. Such person must meet all Safe Environment requirements.

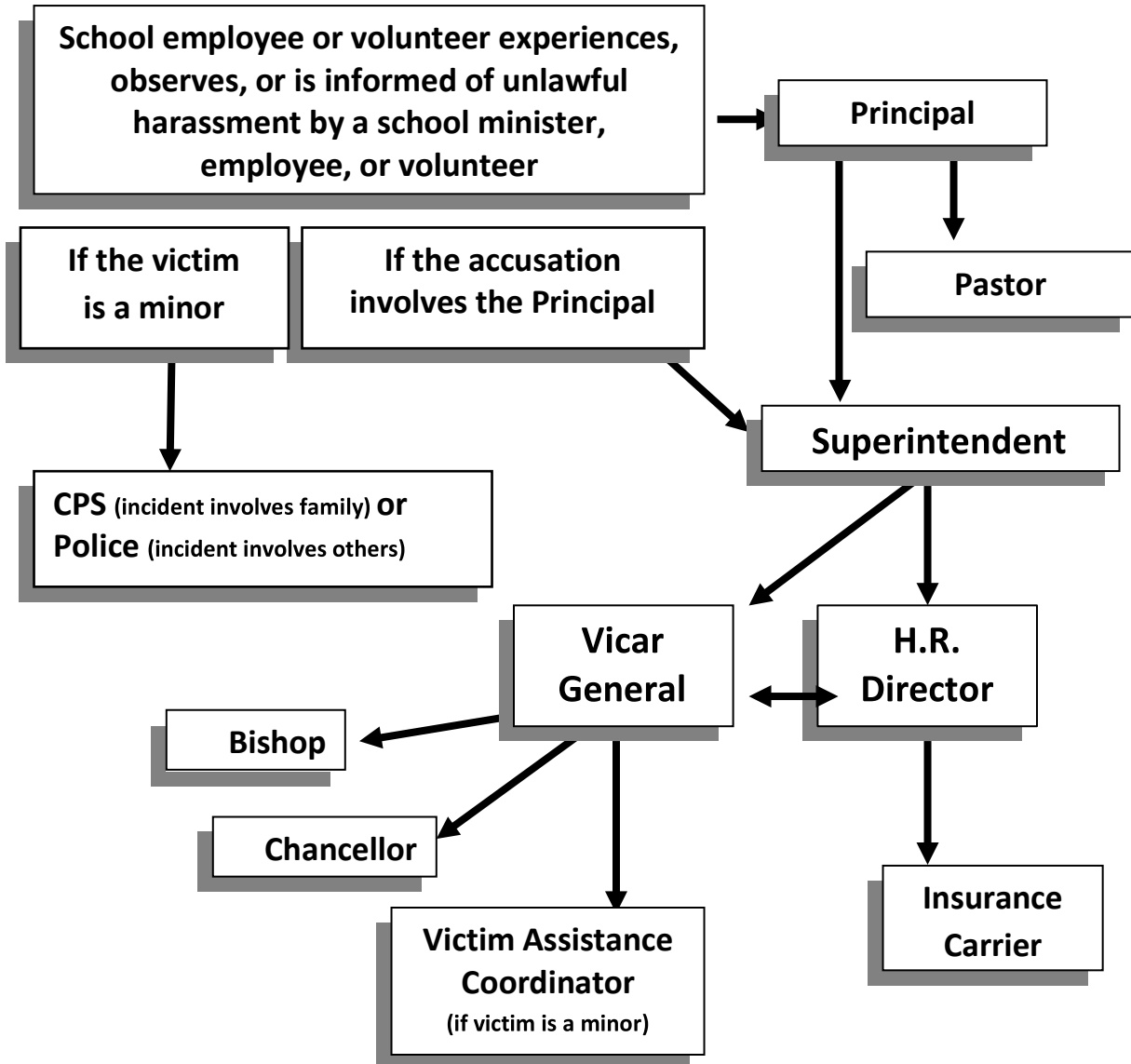
RESPONDING TO AN ALLEGATION OF UNLAWFUL HARASSMENT AT A PARISH

(Harassment includes unlawful discrimination, sexual harassment, or child abuse.)



RESPONDING TO AN ALLEGATION OF UNLAWFUL HARASSMENT AT A SCHOOL

(Harassment includes unlawful discrimination, sexual harassment, or child abuse.)



RESPONSE PROCEDURES WHEN AN ALLEGATION OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR OR VULNERABLE ADULT BY A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY, EMPLOYEE OR VOLUNTEER IS RECEIVED

1) If the Allegation Creates a Reasonable Suspicion

Any allegation of sexual misconduct involving a minor or vulnerable adult, which creates a reasonable suspicion of its veracity, will be reported to the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction where the alleged abuse occurred in compliance with the California Child Abuse and Neglect Report Act (1997). The Diocese will fully cooperate with the investigation conducted by law enforcement that will be followed by a diocesan investigation.

2) Preliminary Administrative Actions

Unless law enforcement requests that the accused not be contacted, the priest, deacon or employee will be placed on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of both the investigations being conducted by law enforcement and the Diocese. A volunteer will be directed to discontinue all volunteer activity pending the outcome of both the investigations being conducted by law enforcement and the Diocese.

3) Notification of Faith Communities

The faith community where the priest or deacon is currently assigned will be notified of the allegation. Anyone with relevant information will be asked to come forward. The announcement will include a reminder that an allegation in itself does not carry with it a presumption of guilt; and, being placed on paid administration leave at the beginning of an investigation is precautionary only, not punitive. Depending on the particular circumstances, notification may be extended to other faith communities where the accused cleric was assigned.

4) Pastoral Outreach to the Alleged Victim, Family and Community

The Diocese will immediately reach out to any known alleged victim or appropriate family members in the case of minors, and offer pastoral assistance and appropriate services. This outreach will include provision of counseling, spiritual assistance, support groups, and other social services agreed upon by the victim and the Diocese.

5) Support for the Accused

All appropriate steps shall be taken to protect the reputation of the cleric during the investigation. The Diocese will also be aware of the needs of the accused cleric in order to see that he receives the personal support he needs during a very difficult time. The Diocese will urge the cleric to contact a criminal attorney and canonical counsel. The cost of legal assistance will be borne by the cleric. The cleric may be asked to have a medical and psychological evaluation, which again does not imply guilt, so long as this does not interfere with the investigation by civil authorities, but is for the good of the cleric as well as for the good of God's people, even if he may be accused unjustly.

6) Additional Actions

If the investigations by law enforcement and/or the Diocese leads to a belief that there may be probable cause for an allegation against a member of the clergy, the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith shall be notified.

7) If Guilt is Determined Regarding Current or Recent Sexual Abuse of a Minor

Diocesan policy provides that for even a single act of sexual abuse of a minor – past or present – the offending cleric will be permanently removed from ministry not excluding dismissal from the clerical state, if the case so warrants. An offending cleric will be offered professional assistance for his own healing and well-being, as well as for the purpose of prevention.

8) If an Allegation is Made Against a Cleric Belonging to a Religious Community

When an allegation is made against a cleric belonging to a religious community, the Bishop or Vicar General will notify the religious community of the allegation immediately. The religious community will be asked to handle the complaint according to its policy and procedures. However, the Diocese of Fresno does not delegate its responsibility to report allegations brought to its attention, and will work with the religious community to assure the safety of God's people. If the allegation involves a minor, it will be reported to the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction where the alleged abuse occurred in compliance with the California Child Abuse and Neglect Report Act (1997).

9) If the Allegation is Unsupported but it is Determined Preventative Measures could have Avoided the Accusation

If the complaint is judged to be unsupported but it is determined that reasonable precautions could have been taken to avoid any appearance of inappropriate behavior and prevent an allegation of misconduct, the Bishop may provide instruction and counseling for the cleric. The Diocese reserves the right to take all prudent measures to follow up on the matter and to monitor the behavior of the person in question, so that there is no cause for further complaints.

10) When an Allegation has Proved to be Unfounded

If the allegation has proved to be unfounded, every step possible will be taken to restore the good name of the cleric.

TEN POINTS TO CREATE SAFE ENVIRONMENTS FOR CHILDREN

1. **Sexual molestation is about the victim**

Many people are affected when a priest or person of trust in the church abuses a minor, but the individual most impacted is the victim who has suffered a violation of trust that can affect his or her entire life. The abuser, the family of the abused, and the parish community are all affected by this sin and crime, but the primary person of concern must be the victim.

2. **No one has the right to have access to children**

If people wish to volunteer for the church, for example, in a parish or school, they must follow diocesan guidelines on background checks, safe environment training, policies and procedures, and codes of conduct. No one, no matter who they are, has an automatic right to be around children or young people who are in the care of the church without proper screening and without following the rules.

3. **Common sense is not all that common**

It is naive to presume that people automatically know boundaries so organizations and families have to spell them out. For example, no youth minister, cleric or other adult leader should be in a child's bedroom, alone with the child.

4. **Child sexual abuse can be prevented**

Awareness that child sexual abuse exists and can exist anywhere is a start. It is then critical to build safety barriers around children and young people to keep them from harm. These barriers come in the form of protective guardians, codes of conduct, background evaluations, policies and procedures, and safety training programs.

5. **The residual effects of having been abused can last a lifetime**

Those who have been abused seldom get over it. The sense of violation goes deep into a person's psyche and feelings of anger, shame, hurt and betrayal can build long after the abuse has taken place. Some have even described the feeling as if it has scarred their soul.

6. **Feeling heard leads toward healing**

Relief from hurt and anger often comes when one feels heard, when one's pain and concerns are taken seriously, and a victim/survivor's appropriate sense of rage and indignation are acknowledged. Not being acknowledged contributes to a victim's sense of being invisible, unimportant and unworthy; they are in some way re-victimized.

7. You cannot always predict who will be an abuser

Experience shows that most abuse is at the hands of someone who has gained the trust of a victim/survivor and his/her family. Most abuse also occurs in the family setting. Sometimes the nicest person in the world is an abuser, and this niceness enables a false sense of trust to be created between abuser and abused.

8. There are behavioral warning signs of child abusers

Training and education help adults recognize grooming techniques that are precursors to abuse. Some abusers isolate a potential victim by giving him or her undue attention or lavish gifts. Another common grooming technique is to allow young people to participate in activities in which their parents or guardians would not approve, such as watching pornography, drinking alcohol, using drugs, and excessive touching, which include wrestling and tickling. It is also critical to be wary of age-inappropriate relationships, seen, for example, in the adult who is more comfortable with children than fellow adults. Parishes can set up rules to guide interaction between adults and children.

9. People can be taught to identify grooming behavior

Abusers use specific actions to project the image that they are kind, generous, caring people, while their intent is to lure a minor into an inappropriate relationship. An abuser may develop a relationship with the family to increase his credibility. Abusers might show attention to the child by talking to him/her, being friendly, sharing alcohol with a minor and giving the child status by insinuating that the child is their favorite or special person. Offenders can be patient and may groom their victim, his or her family, or community for years.

10. Background checks work.

Background checks in churches, schools and other organizations keep predators away from children both because they scare off some predators and because they uncover past actions which should ban an adult from working or volunteering with children. If an adult has had difficulty with some boundaries that society sets, such as not driving while intoxicated or not disturbing the public peace, he or she may have difficulties with other boundaries, such as not hurting a child. Never forget that offenders lie.

How Do Victims Tell?

- Direct disclosure / very uncommon
- Indirect disclosure
 - Victim may believe they told an adult but information is vague/indirect that the adult does not understand it to be a report of any kind of abuse.
- Disclosure with strings attached
 - “*Can you keep a secret?*”
 - “*Promise you won’t tell!*”
- Disguised or Third Person disclosure
 - “*What if something like this happened to friend of mine?*”
- Accidental disclosure
 - Not consciously done, not prepared emotionally to tell.

What to Do when a Victim Tells?

1. Give the child/teen VALIDATION without any INVESTIGATION
 - a. “I am so sorry to hear that, let’s talk about it before you leave today.”
2. Use a TEAM approach and LISTEN to the report. Do not ask a lot of questions, this can hinder an investigation.
 - a. “Tell me what is going on.” Give physical, not verbal, gestures of listening (eye contact, head movement, etc)
3. DO NOT make any PROMISES. We cannot solve this problem alone.
 - a. “Wow, this must be tough, let’s call my friend (CPS) for some advice.”
4. AVOID parental/guardian confrontation.
 - a. Call the police (911) if the child outright refuses to go home.
 - b. Call the police (911) if a parent/guardian is intoxicated at pick up time.
 - c. Call the police (911) if you witness or see a weapon of any kind.
 - d. Call the police (911) if you or the child is threatened.
 - e. Call the police (911) if you are in doubt.
5. Report this to your supervisor AND CPS or local Law Enforcement IMMEDIATELY.

Reporting Abuse

Child abuse must be reported by one who is a legally mandated reporter, “has knowledge of, or observes a child in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment whom he or she knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse shall **report the known or suspected instance of child abuse to a child protective agency immediately or as soon as possible by telephone and shall send a written report within 36 hours** of receiving information concerning the incident.” (Penal Code, § 11166[a])

“Reasonable suspicion” occurs when “it is objectively reasonable for a person to entertain such a suspicion, based upon facts that could cause a reasonable person in a like position drawing when appropriate on his or her training and experience, to suspect child abuse” (Penal Code, § 11166[a]).

Immunity

Those persons legally required to report suspected child abuse have immunity from criminal or civil liability for reporting as required (Penal Code, §11172[a]).

Any person not mandated by law to report suspected child abuse has immunity unless the report is proven to be false and the person reporting knows it is false, or the report is made with reckless disregard of the truth or falsity of the incident (Penal Code, §11172[a]).

Child Welfare Services (CPS) by County

FRESNO

Director, Fresno County CWS Agency
2600 Ventura Street
Fresno, CA 93750 **559-255-8320**

INYO

Director, Inyo County CWS Agency
Courthouse Annex, Drawer A
Independence, CA 93526-0601 **760-872-1727**

KERN

Director, Kern County CWS Agency
PO Box 511
Bakersfield, CA 93302 **661-631-6011**
760-375-6049

KINGS

Director, Kings County CWS Agency
1200 South Drive
Hanford, CA 93230 **559-582-3241**
866-582-8776

MADERA

Director, Madera County CWS Agency
700 East Yosemite Avenue
Madera, CA 93638 **559-675-7829**
800-801-3999

MARIPOSA

Director, Mariposa County CWS Agency
5186 Highway 49 North
Mariposa, CA 95338 **209-966-7000**
800-549-6741

MERCED

Director, Merced County CWS Agency
Post Office Box 112
Merced, CA 95341 **209-385-3104**

TULARE

Director, Tulare County CWS Agency
5957 South Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277 **559-730-2677**
800-331-1585

To Report Suspected Abuse

Within the Church by:

Clergy

Religious

Employee

Or

Volunteer

Call

Law Enforcement

Immediately

Then call the

Diocese of Fresno

559-488-7400

Victim Assistance Hotline

559-493-2882



SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE REPORT

To Be Completed by Mandated Child Abuse Reporters
Pursuant to Penal Code Section 11166

CASE NAME: _____

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

CASE NUMBER: _____

A. REPORTING PARTY	NAME OF MANDATED REPORTER	TITLE	MANDATED REPORTER CATEGORY			
	REPORTERS BUSINESS/AGENCY NAME AND ADDRESS	Street	City	Zip		
	REPORTERS TELEPHONE (DAYTIME)	SIGNATURE		TODAY'S DATE		
B. REPORT NOTIFICATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW ENFORCEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY PROBATION <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY WELFARE / CPS (Child Protective Services)		AGENCY			
	ADDRESS	Street	City	Zip		
	OFFICIAL CONTACTED - TITLE	TELEPHONE		DATE/TIME OF PHONE CALL		
C. VICTIM One report per victim	NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)		BIRTHDATE OR APPROX. AGE	SEX	ETHNICITY	
	ADDRESS	Street	City	Zip	TELEPHONE	
	PRESENT LOCATION OF VICTIM		SCHOOL	CLASS	GRADE	
	PHYSICALLY DISABLED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	OTHER DISABILITY (SPECIFY)		PRIMARY LANGUAGE SPOKEN IN HOME	
	IN FOSTER CARE? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	IF VICTIM WAS IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE AT TIME OF INCIDENT, CHECK TYPE OF CARE: <input type="checkbox"/> DAY CARE <input type="checkbox"/> CHILD CARE CENTER <input type="checkbox"/> FOSTER FAMILY HOME <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY FRIEND <input type="checkbox"/> GROUP HOME OR INSTITUTION <input type="checkbox"/> RELATIVE'S HOME			TYPE OF ABUSE (CHECK ONE OR MORE) <input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICAL <input type="checkbox"/> MENTAL <input type="checkbox"/> SEXUAL <input type="checkbox"/> NEGLECT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
	RELATIONSHIP TO SUSPECT		PHOTOS TAKEN? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	DID THE INCIDENT RESULT IN THIS VICTIM'S DEATH? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN		
D. INVOLVED PARTIES VICTIMS SIBLINGS PARENTS/GUARDIANS SUSPECT	NAME		BIRTHDATE	SEX	ETHNICITY	
	1. _____		3. _____			
	2. _____		4. _____			
	NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)		BIRTHDATE OR APPROX. AGE	SEX	ETHNICITY	
	ADDRESS	Street	City	Zip	HOME PHONE	
					BUSINESS PHONE	
	NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)		BIRTHDATE OR APPROX. AGE	SEX	ETHNICITY	
	ADDRESS	Street	City	Zip	HOME PHONE	
					BUSINESS PHONE	
	SUSPECT'S NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)		BIRTHDATE OR APPROX. AGE	SEX	ETHNICITY	
ADDRESS		Street	City	Zip	TELEPHONE	
E. INCIDENT INFORMATION	IF NECESSARY, ATTACH EXTRA SHEET(S) OR OTHER FORM(S) AND CHECK THIS BOX: <input type="checkbox"/>		IF MULTIPLE VICTIMS, INDICATE NUMBER: _____			
	DATE / TIME OF INCIDENT	PLACE OF INCIDENT				
	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (What victim(s) said/what the mandated reporter observed/what person accompanying the victim(s) said/what or past incidents involving the victim(s) or suspect)					

SS 8572 (Rev. 1/202)

DEFINITIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE

DO NOT submit a copy of this form to the Department of Justice (DOJ). The investigating agency is required under Penal Code Section 11169 to submit to DOJ a Child Abuse Investigation Report Form SS 8583 if (1) an active investigation was conducted and (2) the incident was determined not to be unfounded.

WHITE COPY-Police or Sheriff's Department; BLUE COPY-County Welfare or Probation Department; GREEN COPY-District Attorney's Office; YELLOW COPY-Reporting Party

Forms can be found online (http://ag.ca.gov/childabuse/pdf/ss_8572.pdf) or at each school and parish office. Please ensure you fill out the information as accurately and completely as possible. Use registration records to obtain personal information. Be complete in your description of events.

Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno



Catholic Safe Environment Curriculum Parent Training

Parent Training is a comprehensive look at the Catholic Safe Environment Training that all K-12th grade students in Catholic Schools and Faith Formation programs will receive. This training is a tool for parents to reinforce the safety information taught to the children. Parents are encouraged to log onto Diocese of Fresno web site (www.dioceseoffresno.org) and click on the Safe Environment tab to access information about bullying, cyber safety, and child and youth safety. Cartoons, articles, brochures are available for free download.

Doctrinal Connection

The Catholic Church has many documents that support the beliefs of our faith. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* is one document that we use as a guide. If you have a personal copy, you can look up the referenced entries or you can also access them online to see how our Catholic faith supports the safety of ourselves and others. Although there are thousands of entries, several have been selected for this program and include:

CCC: 336, 1185, 1520, 1804, 1881, 1887, 1917, 2172, 2492, and 2496.

Safe Rules

There are 3 basic rules for staying safe. Say “No” then “Go” to a safe place and “Tell” a safe adult.

Safety Rules Scenarios

Talk with your family using the following conversation starters.

- I yelled “STOP!” when.....
- I said “no” when.....
- I told someone when.....
- I walked away when.....
- I asked for help from.....

- When I needed help I went to.....

Safe Space

Personal space is simply the distance between people. Personal space varies from person to person and is commonly referred to as the “personal bubble” or a comfort zone. Have a brief discussion as a family about personal space.

- a. How do you feel when someone you know “pops” your personal space bubble? How about if a stranger gets too close?
- b. How do you feel when someone touches you in a harmful way?
- c. How do you feel when you see someone else being touched in a harmful way?
- d. What can you say and do? (follow the safety rules: Say NO, GO away, TELL a safe adult.)

Safe Places

There are safe places in our neighborhood, schools, and community areas. Safe places are NOT hiding places. Safe places are open areas. Safe places have safe adults who can help you. Use The 5 Always to remind your family about staying in safe spaces, safe places, and following safe rules

The 5 ALWAYS!

Always be around other people you know in public.

Always be aware of where your parents or adult in charge is.

Always tell your parents when you need help.

Always tell your parents when you leave and where you will be.

Always ask your parents permission to go with someone.

Youth Conduct

1. Every youth is expected to act in a Christ-like manner
2. Every youth is expected to be respectful.
3. Every youth is expected to cooperate with classmates, teachers, peers, and adults.
4. Every youth is expected to communicate in an appropriate manner.
5. Every youth is expected to respect the personal boundaries and property of others.
6. Every youth is expected to report and inform adults in charge of any kind of abuse or harassment in real life or online.
7. Every youth is expected to promote and support a safe, fun, healthy environment.
8. Youth will NOT tolerate any abuse of any kind from anyone!

Safe Cyber Surfing

Cyber surfing and gaming is a factor that is prevalent in most children's lives. Apps, games, videos, shopping, and socializing are all done on various devices. Talk with your family about the devices you own (cell phones, iPods, tablets, game stations, smart TV, etc).

Cyber "Stranger Danger" - There are NO boundaries on the Internet!

Online strangers can be as dangerous as talking to a stranger in real life. People that are online can be posing as another person, sometimes as a child, to gain your trust. Cyber-strangers need to be avoided. Do not "friend" strangers on apps or games. Always follow the rules of the sites. Ask permission BEFORE you buy or download anything online. Never answer emails from strangers. ALWAYS tell your parents if someone is acting shady online or asking for you to give them personal information. Ask your children if any of the following has ever happened to them or a friend. NOTE: be open to listen to what your children are telling you, without getting upset or angry. We are opening the lines of communication and information.

- ~ Been sent a request by someone they do not know in real life
- ~ Had a pop up of "one of those" pictures that are not for kids
- ~ Been asked to go to a private chat room
- ~ Clicked on a video that they thought was OK, but turned out NOT to be
- ~ Have been sent messages from people they do not know
- ~ Have been hacked

Cyber Privacy – Protect It!

Children often are asked for private information on games sites, apps, shopping sites, etc. Many times kids do not even think before they enter information or press "accept" and "download." Introduce the ASK rule to your family.

A – Always get permission – for apps, games, friends, purchases

S – Stay on Safe Sites – age appropriate, locked sites (closed lock icon)

K – Know who you are talking to/playing with....only real life friends

If you are an arts/crafts type of family you can make magnets or pictures of the Safety Rules (NO, GO, TELL) and of the ASK rule to help remind your family how to stay safe in real life and while online.

Online Safety Tips for Parents:

- a. Have parental consent prior to any cyber use.
- b. Alert administration if you discover cyber-bullying, threats, predators, or inappropriate sites on school computers.
- c. Keep computers in a common area, where you can watch and monitor its use.
- d. If you email a minor child, also “cc” their parent.
- e. Bookmark favorite sites or approved sites for easy access.
- f. Take a child seriously if he or she reports an uncomfortable online exchange.
- g. Forward obscene or threatening messages to your Internet service provider and call the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at (800) 843-5678 if you're aware of the transmission, use, or viewing of child pornography online.
- h. Contact your local law enforcement agency or the FBI if your child has received child pornography via the Internet.

Statistics that every parent should know!

- 95% of adults do not recognize the lingo minors use in the digital world.
- 89% of sexual solicitations are made in either chat rooms or on social media sites
- 20% of children are solicited sexually online; 1 out of every 5 kids
- 75% of youth who receive online sexual solicitation do not tell an adult.
- 1/3 of kids have been contacted by a stranger and were considered inappropriate
- 76% of parents don't have rules about what their kids can do on the computer
- 5,000,000 children are posting content to the Web everyday
- 15,000,000 youth use Instant and text Messaging
- 14% have actually met face to face with a person they have met on the Internet
- 1 out of 17 kids have been harassed, threatened, or bullied through cyber space.
- 3% said they told an adult or authority figure when approached online by a stranger.
- 71% have reported receiving messages from someone they do not know
- 45% have been asked for personal info from people they do not know
- 48% report that their parents know "very little" or "nothing" about their online activities

