



Office for the Protection of Children and Youth (OPCY)

The Right of Parents/Legal Guardians to Refuse Safe Environment Training for Children and Youth

Catholic Schools:

According to Bishop's Charter and our diocesan policy, parents/legal guardians are to be informed that they have the right to refuse to allow their child(ren) to attend Safe Environment training held at a parish or Catholic school. It is NOT required to get parent/legal guardian permission for their child/children to attend Safe Environment training.

The Youth Absent from Safe Environment Training form is **NOT** a permission slip, nor does it inform parents/legal guardians that they can refuse the training. This form is sent **AFTER** the child misses the training due to absence or refusal, along with the Home Training Packet.

Please see the statement below which you may use to easily inform parents/legal guardians of their right to refuse the training for their child(ren). If parents/legal guardians notify you in writing(preferred) or phone call, then withhold the child(ren) from the training presentation.

Include the following information in your letter/notification concerning Safe Environment Training. The information can be rearranged as necessary to fit your specific letter/notification

Our school is mandated by the Bishops of the United States to provide Safe Environment training to all students annually. Your child/children will receive this training *sometime during this school year, quarter, month*. If you **DO NOT** want your child to participate, please return the bottom portion of this letter to the school office by _____. Your child will be withheld from the program when it is presented. Thank you.

In the bottom portion of the letter include the following necessary information:

____ I DO NOT want my child to participate in the safe environment training/prevention education training.

Student's Name/Grade level

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature/Date