



# Child Protection Education for Catholic School Parents

Dioceses have been mandated by the U.S. Bishops' Conference (USCCB) to provide inservicing regarding proper conduct and the procedure for response to child abuse not only for children and youth, but also for their parents. They also state: *"It may be difficult to ensure all parents in a parish are adequately informed about the issue of child abuse. To reach as many parents as possible, attempts should be made to provide various types of instruction. Multiple delivery methods could include formal training sessions led by experienced child-safety professionals, independent reading material, videos, or information posted on the diocesan web-site."*

All parents must receive some information regarding Child Abuse/Safe Environment **EVERY YEAR**. It is the school's prerogative to choose the material and the means which will best accomplish this requirement. School will be asked for the number of parents inserviced/sent information on the *Annual School Report for Child Protection Compliance*.

To this end, the diocesan Office for Protection of Children and Youth offers the following suggestions for the mandated dissemination of information to all parents of children in our schools.

- Contact the service agencies in your area to provide an evening in-service for parents. Agencies who are conducting the inservicing of the children all have programs for adults. For a listing of county agencies, click on <http://www.eriercd.org/pdf/county.pdf>
- Supply booklets, pamphlets or some reading material regarding the subject of child abuse to each family in your school. Use the Diocesan Parent Training Packet found at the Child Protection web site (<http://www.eriercd.org/protectyouth.htm>) or the various age-appropriate sections of it to supply information to parents. The brochure from the diocese titled *Frequently asked Questions about Child Abuse* (<http://www.eriercd.org/pdf/abusebroch.pdf>) can be downloaded and copied (or purchased from the diocese) and distributed to all parents. A copy of this flyer could also be put in each parish bulletin to more widely disseminate the information. Pamphlet racks could be installed in the church, school or religious education center. Information can also be included in school parent newsletters. Check out the list at the end of this document for additional sources of parent inservice material. Further reference materials for both adults and students can be found at: <http://www.eriercd.org/pdf/resources.pdf>
- The *Safe Environment* video program, produced by the diocese featuring Msgr. McSweeney, is an appropriate resource for the inservice of parents. Each parish and school has a copy of this program. Use the outline presented at the facilitator training meetings and show the DVD to a group of parents
- The Media Resource library has several videos for all age groups regarding Child Abuse and Safe Environment (refer to the list at the end of this memo). These may be borrowed for use at no charge to the school.

## *Resources for* **Parent Information on Child Abuse**

*Please call companies or check websites for pricing/ordering information. The Media Resource Library (814-824-1222 or [kstreett@eriercd.org](mailto:kstreett@eriercd.org)) has some information about the following resources.*

### **Diocese of Erie Parent Education/Training Packet**

<http://www.eriercd.org/protectyouth.htm> (Scroll down to the section headed “Parents” in red.)

This packet is to be mailed to all parents whose children do not attend parish on-site Child Protection inservice presentations. All or part of the packet may also be used as inservice material for all parents.

### **Diocese of Erie Parent Inservice Material 2008-09**

<http://www.eriercd.org/protectyouth.htm> (Scroll down to the section headed “Parents” in red.)

This packet may be used to send home to parents to conform to the mandate to inservice all parents regarding Safe Environment/Child Protection. This packet is NOT to replace the Parent Training Packet that must be sent to all parents whose children do not participate in the on-site inservice at the parish (see above).

### **Channing Bete Company**

1-800-226-8926

<http://pcaamerica.channing-bete.com>

*Basic Facts About Child Abuse*

*Helping Prevent Child Sexual Abuse*

*Talking About Child Sexual Abuse*

*You Can Help Prevent Child Abuse*

excellent booklets at affordable prices.

### **National Pastoral Life Center**

212-431-7825

[www.nplc.org](http://www.nplc.org) (Click on Publications, choose TIPS pamphlets)

*Keeping Our Children Safe: Tips for Parents, Teachers, and Other Adults Who Live and Work with Children* by Cecelia Regan

four page, 8x10 leaflet, easy to hand out in bulletin or mail

### **Faith Trust Institute**

1-877-860-2255

[www.faithtrustinstitute.org](http://www.faithtrustinstitute.org) (Go to Online Store, choose Search by Topic, choose Child Abuse)

*What You Need to Know If a Child Is Being Abused*

good introductory pamphlet

### **National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM)**

(202) 636-3825

<http://www.nfcym.org>

look under “Youth Protection”

**Darkness to Light**

<http://www.darkness2light.org/default.asp>

This organization has excellent materials for parent education regarding the topic of child sexual abuse. Information is easy to find on this web site and would be a good one to “send” parents to.

N.B. This list is by no means exhaustive. It is a basic resource list to help you begin the process of educating parents about child sexual abuse.

## **Videos Available from the Diocesan Media Resource Library**

Please visit <http://www.eriercd.org/education2.asp> for the on-line catalog for more information about these videos. (Search under Topic “Abuse Issues”)

**For Adults**

- #2892 Cyberstalker: 48 Hours (CBS)
- #2874 What Do I Say Now? How to Help Protect Your Child from Sexual Abuse
- #2872 Child Abuse & Neglect: For Caregivers
- #2871 Children, the Internet and Pornography
- #2743 Bullying: What every adult needs to know
- #2446 Somebody Told
- #2245 Mind That Child
- #803 Hear Their Cries

Rev.10/08