



Parental Option Form for Child Protection Inservice Diocese of Erie - Religious Education

The safety of our children is a matter taken very seriously by the Diocese of Erie. Please indicate the reason your child was not present for the religious education student inservice for child protection by completing the information below and returning this form to your child's teacher. This document will be maintained to ensure full accountability concerning the safe environment training of every child. Thank you for your cooperation.

Name(s) of children:

The parish offered Safe Environment training for my child; however, my child was absent for that training because: (please check appropriate box YES or NO)

Y N I refused to allow my child to participate in this training.

Y N **OR**
Other legitimate absence (i.e. illness, custody issue, etc.)

Please explain _____

I have received safe environment training materials and have discussed these materials with my child at home. (Check when completed)

Parent Signature

Date

Parish

City

Rationale for Student Inservice: The Bishops of the United States have mandated that all children and youth be inserviced in regard to safe environment. Article 12 of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* issued by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops states:

Dioceses will establish "safe environment" programs. They will cooperate with parents, civil authorities, educators, and community organizations to provide education and training for children, youth, parents, ministers, educators, and other about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children.

Two situations result in a child's non-participation in parish sponsored safe environment programs:

1. Parents refuse to allow their children to participate in the program.
2. Children are legitimately absent from the religious education program the day the safe environment training is offered.