



Office for the Protection of Children and Youth (OPCY)

The Right of Parents/Legal Guardians to Opt-out of Safe Environment Training for Children and Youth

Parishes:

According to Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People issued by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and our diocesan Policy for the Protection of Children, parents/legal guardians are to be informed that they have the right to opt their child(ren) out of the safe environment training held annually in parishes and Catholic schools. It is NOT required to get parent/legal guardian permission for a child to attend safe environment training.

The Safe Environment Training Acknowledgement form is **NOT** a permission slip, nor does it inform parents/legal guardians that they can opt-out of the training. This form and the Home Training Packet is sent **AFTER** the child misses the training.

Please see the statements below which you may use on a registration form or as a bulletin announcement to easily inform parents/legal guardians of their right to refuse the training for their child(ren). If a parent/legal guardian notifies you in writing (preferred) or phone call, then withhold the child(ren) from the training presentation.

On Registration Form

Safe Environment Training: The parish is mandated by Bishop's decree to provide annual safe environment training to all youth enrolled in a parish formation program. Your child will receive this training sometime during the formation year. If you **DO NOT** want your child(ren) to participate, please contact the Formation office in writing. Your child(ren) will be withheld from the program when it is presented. Thank you.

Bulletin Announcement

Safe Environment Training: The parish mandated by Bishop's decree to provide annual safe environment training to all youth enrolled in a parish formation program. Your child will receive this training sometime during the formation year. If you **DO NOT** want your child(ren) to participate, please contact the Formation office in writing. Your child(ren) will be withheld from the program when it is presented. Thank you.