



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

Catholic Schools:

According to the 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 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 needs.

Our school is mandated by Bishop's decree to provide annual safe environment training to all students. 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