



Safe Environment Tips for Parents and Caregivers

**Every child deserves a
safe environment.**



**Ministry to children and young people is a
privilege, not a right.**

Did you know....

In the Diocese of Erie, to work with children, all adults must:

- Obtain the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania required clearances.
- Complete the safe environment training that includes how to recognize and report child abuse.
- Complete an application.
- Sign a statement saying they will follow the Policy for the Protection of Children.
- Sign a statement acknowledging they are mandated reporters, required to report child abuse.

A list of all required documentation for clergy, employees and volunteers can be found on the Protection of Children webpage of the diocesan website, www.eriercd.org.

Did you know....

- The Office for the Protection of Children and Youth conducts audit visits at parishes and Catholic schools to ensure compliance.
- The Diocese is audited yearly by an independent firm to evaluate the implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People at the diocesan level.

What you can do

Watch for these warning signs of abuse in children:

Depression or Anxiety.

No longer wants to see a particular person they had been close to.

Demonstrates aggressive behavior or constantly angry.

No longer interested in activities they used to enjoy.

Loss of appetite or changes in eating habits, personality or moods.

Unexplained bruising, burn marks or cuts.

Withdraws from family or friends.

Tries to hide use of technology.

Declining academic performance.



... And these warning signs of abusers.

Gives lavish gifts to minors.

Keeps secrets with minors.

Is overly interested in spending time with minors.

Takes photos without approval or asks minors to send photos.

Does not believe the rules apply to them or does not follow rules or protocols.

Has inappropriate or suggestive conversations with minors.

Tries to be alone with minors.

Allows or encourages minors to break laws or rules.

To report suspected child abuse call ChildLine at 800-932-0313

Policy for the Protection of Children violations committed by employees and volunteers working in parishes and Catholic schools can be reported to the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth 814-824-1195.