



***Safe Environment Tips for Parents and Caregivers 2023-2024***

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, in order to work with children, an adult must :

- ⇒ Obtain the state of Pennsylvania required clearances.
- ⇒ Complete 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 the required documentation for clergy, employees, and volunteers can be found on the Protection of Children webpage of the diocesan website, [www.eriescd.org](http://www.eriescd.org).

**Did you know....**

- ⇒ The Office for the Protection of Children and Youth visits parishes and catholic schools to check for compliance.
- ⇒ The Diocese is audited yearly by an independent firm to evaluate implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth People at the diocesan level and parish/school level.

## What Parents and all other adults can do....

### Watch for these warning signs of abuse in children:

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

Declining academic performance

Demonstrates aggressive behavior or constantly angry

Changes in personality or mood

Tries to hide use of technology

Depression or anxiety

No longer interested in activities they used to enjoy

Loss of appetite or changes in eating habits

Withdraws from family or friends



Commits physical and emotional boundary violations

### ... and these warning signs of Perpetrators

Does not believe the rules apply to them (or, does not follow rules or protocols)

Gives lavish gifts to minors

Keeps secrets with minors

Allows or encourages minors to break laws or rules

Has inappropriate or suggestive conversations with minors

Is overly interested in spending time with minors

Takes photos without approval, or asks minors to send them

Tries to get minors alone

*Boundary 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.*