



# Safe Environment/Child Protection Education for Parents

Dioceses have been mandated by the U.S. Bishops' Conference (USCCB) to provide safe environment training regarding proper conduct and the procedure for response to child abuse not only for children and youth, but also for their parents. They also state: *"It may be difficult to ensure all parents in a parish/school are adequately informed about the issue of child abuse. To reach as many parents as possible, attempts should be made to provide various types of instruction. Multiple delivery methods could include formal training sessions led by experienced child-safety professionals, independent reading material, videos, or information posted on the diocesan web-site."*

All parents must receive some information regarding Child Abuse/Safe Environment **EVERY YEAR**. It is the parish/school's prerogative to choose the material and the means which will best accomplish this requirement. The parish/school will be asked for the number of parents trained/sent information on the *Annual Parish/School Report for Child Protection Compliance* each year.

To this end, the diocesan Office for Protection of Children and Youth offers the following suggestions for the mandated dissemination of information to all parents of children in our schools/parishes.

- Contact the service agencies in your area to provide an evening in-service for parents. Agencies who are conducting the training of the children all have programs for adults. For a listing of county agencies, click on [www.eriecd.org/images/sections/childprotection/pdf/county.pdf](http://www.eriecd.org/images/sections/childprotection/pdf/county.pdf)
- Distribute the **Parent Safe Environment/Child Protection Training material** posted each year on the Protection of Children webpage ([www.eriecd.org/childprotection](http://www.eriecd.org/childprotection)) to supply information to parents. This is **NOT** to replace the Home Training Packet that must be sent to all parents whose children do not participate in the on-site safe environment training at the parish/school (see above).
- The brochure from the diocese titled *Frequently asked Questions about Child Abuse* ( [Brochure: Frequently Asked Questions about Child Abuse](#) ) can be downloaded, copied and distributed to all parents.
- Supply booklets, pamphlets or some reading material regarding the subject of child abuse to each family in your program. Information can be included in a parent newsletter or parish bulletin. Check out the resources that follow for additional sources of parent training material. Further reference materials for both adults and students can also be found at: [www.eriecd.org/images/sections/childprotection/pdf/additionalresources.pdf](http://www.eriecd.org/images/sections/childprotection/pdf/additionalresources.pdf)

## ***Additional Resources for***

### **Parent Safe Environment/Child Abuse Training**

#### **Channing Bete Company**

1-800-226-8926

<https://www.channingbete.com/>

excellent booklets at affordable prices.

#### **Faith Trust Institute**

1-877-860-2255

[www.faithtrustinstitute.org](http://www.faithtrustinstitute.org) (Go to **Store**, choose **Child Abuse Materials**, choose **Child Abuse Awareness Brochures**)

*What You Need to Know If a Child Is Being Abused*

good introductory pamphlet

#### **Darkness to Light**

<http://www.d2l.org/>

This organization has excellent materials for parent education regarding the topic of child sexual abuse. Information is easy to find.

N.B. This list is by no means exhaustive. It is a basic resource list to help you begin the process of educating parents about child sexual abuse/safe environments.

Revised: March 2021