



The Office of Child and Youth Protection Continued Initiatives in 2018

The Office of Child and Youth Protection

The office has a Licensed Clinical Social Worker on staff available 24 hours a day to field calls from survivors, pastors, employees or current victims seeking assistance or guidance.

The office works with civil authorities on reported cases to ensure information has been accurately and properly disseminated to appropriate parties.

The office provides on-site trainings concentrating on the child protection policy and reporting child abuse protocols to seminarians, priests, school officials, religious education administrators and school/parent communities. Trainings have included members of the law enforcement community.

The office oversees over 240 child protection coordinators to ensure all community members are compliant with the child protection policy and have been appropriately screened.

The office provides on-site visits to parishes and schools throughout the Archdiocese of Washington to ensure locations are current with documentation and screening requirements, as well as, providing clarification on issues that might arise within the community.

All members of the Office of Child Protection are available seven days a week to provide support and assistance to all members within the Archdiocese of Washington's community.

Screening

All religious, employees, and volunteers need to successfully complete a criminal background check to work with children. Criminal background re-checks are done

monthly.

Religious and employees need to complete an electronic background check as well as fingerprinting. Volunteers need to successfully complete an electronic background check. All results must be posted prior to when individuals are permitted to work with children.

In 2017, 662 religious and employees were fingerprinted and 4,122 religious, employees and volunteers were electronically background checked.

Education

All religious, employees, and volunteers must complete the Virtus safe-environment training class in person. Additionally, continuing education bulletins are required to be read and completed by all religious and employees.

In 2016-2017, 108 Virtus safe environment training sessions were conducted for community members and over 3,766 individuals were trained.

Students who attend Archdiocese of Washington's schools and religious education programs participate in safe environment trainings. In 2017, 14,841 students received age-appropriate training.

Resources

Through the Archdiocese of Washington's website under the Child Protection tab, the online supplemental training video series "Focus on the Child" is available to anyone seeking information about child abuse.

The website provides a "Parent's Guide" fact sheets for parents looking for guidance on important and complex issues like child sexual abuse, bullying, and healthy relationships.

Please contact Courtney Chase, LCSW-C, for assistance or guidance at 301-853-5302.