

~WORKSHOP OVERVIEW~

A Diocese of Toledo workshop for educators, scout leaders, coaches and all other persons who minister to youth:

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- Assist Church personnel in becoming more aware of the types and characteristics of child abuse and their legal duty to report it.
- Provide an overview of Diocesan policies regarding the expected standards of conduct of persons representing the Church in working with youth.
- Provide guidelines that protect youth and those who serve them.

Recognizing Child Abuse

4 General Areas

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect

Indicators Of Abuse

- Physical
- Behavioral
- Environmental

PHYSICAL ABUSE

*Evidence of **PHYSICAL** or **MENTAL** injury to a child which, regardless of perpetrator or motive, is excessive under the circumstances and creates substantial risk of serious physical harm.*

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical Indicators

- Bruises - cluster or multiple at different stages of healing
- Patterned injuries like loop marks, finger or pinch marks, bites
- Burns - unusual locations(soles of feet, palms, etc.) Immersion or imprint burns

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Behavioral Indicators

- Extreme behaviors - overly submissive or rebellious
- Sudden change in moods or behaviors

- Self-abusive behavior
- Aggressive or regressive behavior
- Suicidal thoughts or attempts
- Avoidance of undressing
- Excessive absences, sudden drop in grades

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Environmental Indicators

- Social isolation
- Young parents/poor parenting skills
- History of abuse/neglect in extended families
- Previous abuse of children
- Emotional illness/substance abuse in family
- Poor family support/relationships

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Definition

- Chronic attitude or acts which result insignificant, verifiable psychological damage or impairment of the normal social/emotional development of a child
- Common behaviors usually exhibited by parents: Rejecting, Terrorizing, Ignoring, Isolating, Exploiting/Corrupting

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Physical Indicators

- Eating disorders
- Development delays
- Nervous disorders
- Self-abusive behaviors

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Behavioral Indicators

- Self-abusive behaviors
- Habit disorders, (i.e. biting, rocking, head banging, etc.)
- Poor self-esteem
- Withdrawal
- Depression/emotional illness
- Suicidal thoughts or attempts
- Behavioral extremes, i.e. overly aggressive or compliant
- Psychosomatic complaints

SEXUAL ABUSE

Definition

- Any activity of a sexual nature involving a child for the gratification of the perpetrator or a third party
- Sexual activity is not only sexual acts, but mere touching

SEXUAL ABUSE

Physical Indicators

- Pain/irritation of genitalia
- Bruises, bleeding from external genitalia, vagina, anal region
- Genital discharge
- Torn, stained, bloody underclothes

SEXUAL ABUSE

Behavioral Indicators

- Extreme behaviors, overly aggressive or submissive
- Sudden changes in moods or behaviors
- Self-abusive behaviors
- Suicidal thoughts or attempts
- Promiscuity/sexual behavior
- Sexual behavior inappropriate for age of child
- Difficulty walking, sitting
- Preoccupation with sexual matters

NEGLECT

Neglect or refusal by a parent/guardian to provide a child with proper or necessary subsistence, education, medical or surgical care or care necessary for his/her health, safety or well-being

NEGLECT

Physical Indicators

- Chronic uncleanliness or poor hygiene
- Unsuitable clothing - missing items of clothing
- Untreated illness or injury
- Excessive sunburn, colds, insect bites, etc.
- Height and/or weight significantly below age level
- Lack of supervision, adequate nutrition or safe, warm, sanitary shelter

NEGLECT

Behavioral Indicators

- Unusual school attendance or absences
- Chronic hunger or fatigue
- Begging or collecting food

- Assuming adult roles
 - Dull, apathetic appearance
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LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

- No official who knows or suspects that a child under eighteen years has suffered or faces a threat of suffering any physical or mental wound, injury, disability or condition of a nature that reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of the child, shall fail to report.
 - Officials include schoolteachers, school employees, psychologists, social workers, nursing personnel, speech therapists, and persons rendering spiritual treatment.
 - Must be acting in official or professional capacity for requirement to take effect
 - Must report to child protective services or local police. Diocese requires this report be done in conjunction with your local superior, (i.e. principal, pastor, or pastoral leader)
 - Immunity from civil or criminal liability for good faith reporting.
 - Report is confidential
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DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS For Effective Ministry To Youth

- Adherence to Affirmations for Employment(Principal and Teacher-Ministers)
- Adherence to Policy on Response to Child Abuse and Adult Sexual Misconduct

NON-FRATERNIZATION POLICY

- Church will defend child's right regardless of who alleged abuser is.
 - Must be adult-to-child relationship. Conform to moral standards of Church, legal standards of State of Ohio and common sense
 - Generally, no fraternization with youth. Exceptions should be rare and with groups of youth.
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RESPONSE TO CHILD ABUSE ALLEGATIONS SUMMARY OF POLICY

1. Investigative Process
2. Lay Review Board
3. Pastoral Response
4. Confidentiality within the statute of the law – State Mandate to

Report all cases

**RESPONSE TO CHILD ABUSE ALLEGATIONS
SUMMARY OF POLICY**

- Prevention and Education
- Protecting Youth and Those Who Serve Them
- Volunteer
- CYO Coaches Clinic
- Finger Printing

EXPECTATIONS