



All children have the right to be safe and protected from harm in all environments ~ home, school, religious institutions, neighborhoods and communities.

The Diocese of Syracuse embraces this right to safety and is dedicated to promoting the protection of children and young people. It will continue to take steps to create a safe environment, to prevent child sexual abuse, and to bring the healing ministry of the diocese to bear wherever possible.



Contact Information

Your Site Coordinator

Diocesan Safe Environment Program Coordinator

Diocese of Syracuse
240 E. Onondaga Street
Syracuse NY 13202
Phone: 315.470.1421

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Diocese of Syracuse
240 E. Onondaga Street
Syracuse NY 13202
Phone: 315.470.1465
Fax: 315.478.4619

Website:

<http://syracusediocese.org/our-commitment-to-child-and-youth-protection/>

DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE

Safe Environment Program
Child & Youth Protection



**A Guide for
Employees
&
Volunteers**

Safe Environment Program Child & Youth Protection

FAQs

What is the VIRTUS® “Protecting God’s Children” training?

This safe environment adult awareness program is nationally recognized. The 3-hour session covers the warning signs of child sexual abuse. The facilitator also leads participants through a 5-part plan that builds the full barrier system between children and those who would do them harm.

A mandatory criminal background check is required for all participants. Authorization forms are provided at sessions.

When do I need to attend?

Employees and volunteers must complete a training session within 60 days from the start of their duties. Please see your site coordinator or site office for additional training deadline information.

FAQs, continued

Who needs to attend the VIRTUS® “Protecting God’s Children” Safe Environment training?

- **All** clergy, **All** religious and **All** employees
- **All** volunteers who have contact with children and youth.
- **Any** concerned adult at our diocesan sites who wants to learn more.

Can youth attend a “Protecting God’s Children” session?

Although not required to attend, youths between the ages of 16 and 18 years may attend with preapproval by their parent or guardian.



Where are sessions held?

“Protecting God’s Children” sessions are held regularly throughout our diocese. Please go to www.syrdio.org and click on Child & Youth Protection/ Safe Environment Training to view the schedules and register.

FAQs, continued

How often do I need to recertify? Every five (5) years.

Where do I find training for recertification?

“Entrusted to Protect, Dedicated to Restore” sessions are offered throughout the diocese. Please go to www.syrdio.org and click on Child & Youth Protection/ Safe Environment Training to view the schedules. Please register according to the instructions listed.

Who can I call with a report or a concern of abuse?

When a child is in immediate danger, please call 911.

The diocese is committed to the protection of all children and young people. If an individual believes he/she may have been harmed or knows of someone who has been harmed by a member of the clergy or other diocesan personnel or volunteer, please contact the **Victim Assistance Coordinator** immediately. (Contact information is found on the reverse side of this brochure.)