

RESPECTING ALL GOD'S PEOPLE (SAFE ENVIRONMENT)

The Archdiocese of Omaha and St. James/Seton School are committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all children, youth, employees and volunteers who participate in ministries and activities by the Archdiocese of Omaha and St. James/Seton School. Attendance at a "Respecting All God's People" workshop is mandated for all in the Archdiocese who come in contact with children on a regular basis.

At St. James/Seton School, if you are going to volunteer and that volunteer role places you in contact with the children, you are required to attend a Safe Environment training and have a background check completed prior to the event. This does not apply to one-time classroom events such as a parent coming into the classroom to talk to the class about an area of expertise. It does apply to such volunteer opportunities as coaching, room parents, driving for field trips, classroom helper, media center aid, correcting papers for the teacher, etc. Final determination as to a situation where safe-environment training/background check is not needed will be made by your Pastor or school administrator.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT POLICIES

CHARTER FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN TO PROTECT THE FAITHFUL IN THE FUTURE

ARTICLE 12. Dioceses/eparchies will establish "safe environment" programs. They will cooperate with parents, civil authorities, educators, and community organizations to provide education and training for children, youth, parents, ministers, educators, and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children. Dioceses/eparchies will make clear to clergy and all members of the community the standards of conduct for clergy and other persons in positions of trust with regard to sexual abuse.

ARTICLE 13. Dioceses/eparchies will evaluate the background of all diocesan/eparchial and parish personnel who have regular contact with minors. Specifically, they will utilize the resources of law enforcement and other community agencies. In addition, they will employ adequate screening and evaluative techniques in deciding the fitness of candidates for ordination (cf. National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Program of Priestly Formation, 1993, no. 513).

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People was developed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse of the United States Conference.

Safe Environment Training

Safe environment trainings have been set for 'all personnel of the archdiocese, i.e. priests, deacons, paid staff and volunteers who have regular contact with children and young people at the time they enter service in the name of the church' ([Archdiocese of Omaha, Child Protection policy 4a, p15](#)). Initial training sessions run approximately 3 hours. Successful completion of training requires that an individual be present for the entire session. Safe Environment Certification is good for a period of 5 years.

BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR APPLICANTS, EMPLOYEES, AND VOLUNTEERS

As part of that commitment, background checks are conducted of all applicants for employment, employees, and certain volunteers within the school or two parishes. The level of background check depends upon the position or potential position of the applicant, employee, or volunteer. The information is requested solely to conduct the background check, and the record will be maintained in a confidential manner, and disclosed only to those with a legitimate need to know.

Call the St. James/Seton School office (572-0339) for local training dates or for further information.