

The following programs in communities around the Archdiocese of Milwaukee provide sexual abuse awareness education and free services to sexual abuse survivors:

<b>Dodge County</b>	
People Against a Violent Environment	920-887-3785 or 800-775-3785
<b>Fond du Lac County</b>	
Catholic Charities	920-923-2550
ASTOP	920-926-5395
Crisis Line	800-418-0270
<b>Kenosha County</b>	
Catholic Charities	262-637-8888
Women's and Children's Horizons/ Pathways of Courage	800-853-3500
<b>Milwaukee County</b>	
Catholic Charities	414-771-2881(main) or 414-541-3624(southwest)
The Healing Center	414-671-(heal)4325 or 877-727-7577
Sexual Assault Treatment Center	414-219-5555
Pathfinders	414-271-2565
Women's and Children's Horizons/ Pathways of Courage	800-853-3500
<b>Ozaukee County</b>	
Catholic Charities	262-284-5811
Advocates of Ozaukee	262-284-3577 or 877-375-4034
<b>Racine County</b>	
Catholic Charities	262-637-8888
Crisis Line	262-637-7233
Sexual Assault Services	262-619-1634
<b>Sheboygan County</b>	
Catholic Charities	920-458-5726
Safe Harbor	920-452-8611
Crisis Line	920-452-7640
<b>Walworth County</b>	
Assoc for the Prevention of Family Violence	262-723-4653
<b>Washington County</b>	
Catholic Charities	262-334-7298
Friends of Abused Families	262-334-5598 x104 Or 262-334-7298
<b>Waukesha County</b>	
Catholic Charities	262-547-2463
Women's Center	262-542-3828
Crisis Line	262-547-4600

## Archdiocese of Milwaukee

### Commitment to Safe Environment

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee is committed to creating a safe environment where all of God's family—children, their parents and relatives, parish and school personnel, volunteers, clergy and archdiocesan central office personnel—will be able to work, live and play in an environment where healthy and responsible relationships prevail.

As a faith-filled people, we respect and value each and every individual, as we are created in the image and likeness of God. It is our collective responsibility, as members of God's family, to raise awareness of the unacceptability of child sexual abuse

Child abuse does not discriminate. It occurs within every religious, ethnic, and socio-economic background.

# Safeguarding All of God's Family



For additional information or any assistance with any questions or concerns you may have regarding Safe Environment in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Please Contact:

Safe Environment Office  
Patti Loehrer, Safe Environment Coordinator  
414-769-3449  
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# Safeguarding All of God's Family

## What is Child Abuse?

Child abuse is defined as permitting or causing any harmful or offensive contact to a child's body. This includes any communication or action (emotional or physical) of any kind which humiliates, shames, or frightens a child.

## Awareness

Safe Environment Education is required for all adults who are employed or who volunteer with children in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The session, *Protecting God's Children*, provides five important steps for adults in an effort to protect and keep safe children and youth.

## 1. Know the Warning Signs

1. Discourages other adults from participating or monitoring.
2. Always wants to be alone with young people.
3. More excited to be with children than adults.
4. Gives gifts to children, often without permission.
5. Goes overboard touching.
6. Always wants to wrestle or tickle.
7. Thinks the rules do not apply to them.
8. Allows young people to engage in activities their parents would not allow.
9. Uses bad language or tells dirty jokes to children.
10. Shows young people pornography.

## 2. Control Access

1. Communicate the Church's commitment to keeping children safe.
2. Use written, standard applications.
3. Require criminal background checks.
4. Complete face-to-face interviews.
5. Check references.
6. Monitor and appropriately restrict young people's Internet access.

## 3. Monitor All Programs

1. Identify secluded areas, lock empty rooms.
2. Develop policies regarding use of secluded areas. For example, staff should check bathrooms before sending children home.
3. Do not permit children to enter staff-only areas.
4. Only meet with children where other adults can have open access.
5. Supervisors should have open access to all programs.
6. Make sure enough adults are involved in programs.
7. Allow parents to have access to all programs.
8. Don't start new programs without approval from appropriate individuals (i.e., pastor, principal).
9. Encourage parental involvement.
10. Make sure that computers are located in open-access areas.
11. Encourage the monitoring of all youth Internet activities as well as the use of appropriate blocking and filtering software.

## 4. Be Aware

1. Talk to your children.
2. Listen to your children.
3. Observe your children, including their Internet and cell phone use.
4. Let your children know they can tell you anything.
5. Discuss with children where their private parts are and that not all adults or children should see or touch them.
6. Talk to your children often about protecting themselves, including ways to protect themselves when using the Internet and/or other aspects of modern technology.
7. Teach your children what to do if someone tries to touch them.
8. Teach your children what to do if someone makes them uncomfortable.
9. Teach your children what to do if they have an uncomfortable communication or experience online.

## 5. Communicate Your Concerns

1. Talk to the person involved.
2. Speak to their supervisor.
3. Notify a church official.
4. Call the child abuse hotline.
5. Call the police.