

# Parental Form for Child Protection In-Servicing Diocese of Erie

The Bishops of the United States have mandated that all children and youth be in-serviced in regard to safe environment. Article 12 of the Charter for Protection of Children and Young People issued by the United States Conference for Catholic Bishops States:

Diocese 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.

Acknowledging the prerogative of parents to educate their children, the national Office for Protection of Children and Youth issued the following statement: "A parent can refuse to allow their child to participate in the safe environment program. The parent must specifically state in writing: (1) that safe environment training was offered to their child, (2) that they refused to allow their child to participate in this training, and (3) that they have received safe environment training materials. This document must be maintained by the diocese to ensure full accountability concerning the safe environment training of every child."

It is with these mandates in mind that the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth of the Diocese of Erie asks parents who choose NOT to have their children participate in the parish in-service programs for safe environment indicate that choice by checking the statements below and signing this document.

**The safety of our children is a matter taken very seriously by the Diocese of Erie.  
Thank you for your cooperation.**

Our Religious Education Program is mandated by the Bishops of the United States to in-service all students annually regarding Safe Environment. Your child will receive this in-service sometime during this catechetical year. If you **DO NOT** want your child to participate, please sign below. Your child will be withheld from the program when it is presented. You will be given information to present to your child.

Thank you.

Parent Signature	Date
<b>Children's Name</b>	<b>Grade</b>