

April 29, 2010

OFFICE OF CHILD PROTECTION UPDATE



Diocese of Belleville

Volume 6, Issue 3

National Child Abuse Prevention Month



April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Included in this mailing is an article which is part of the resources available through the Office of Child and Youth Protection at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Although April is almost over, I encourage you to take a look at the resources and utilize what you feel would be helpful at your parish, school or agency (www.usccb.org/ocyp_month_2010.shtml) throughout the rest of the year.

You could include an article in a newsletter or as a bulletin insert. You might use parts of the liturgy guide. You could use some of the statistics that they include in communications. Be creative!!

Please share any ideas and implementation that you do with me so that I can share your efforts with others, as well as include it in the 2010 Audit. We can all make a difference, one idea or step at a time.

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Field Trips and Summer Activities



As our school and PSR year rapidly comes to an end, please remember as you plan field trips and summer activities that you include preparation time for adults who would like to participate in those events. Don't forget parish groups, as youth ministry groups and vacation bible schools swing into full action during this time of year.

Keep in mind that the state agencies may take anywhere from 4-6 weeks for processing. Both have had a quicker turn around time recently, but that cannot be guaranteed and is completely out of our control. The fall is a busy time for the state agencies and typically this is when we see the longest processing times.

Please also let me know of any Initial Child Protection Policy Trainings that you might be having so that we can get them listed on the website. There are always individuals looking for trainings in their area, so don't keep quiet about the education that is provided to adults. The more individuals that are informed, the more eyes that are out there helping to keep children safe!





We Are Called...

I encourage every location to use the guidelines set out in the Charter for the Protection of Youth and Young People and our Diocesan Child Protection Policy to see each for what they are, which are devices in place to protect the children and youth that we serve. We provide education to children in hopes that it will make them less vulnerable. We provide education to adults so they may join us in our efforts to stop child abuse from occurring. We have screening processes in place to make our children less accessible. These are by no means small efforts, but I feel that children and youth are worth that effort...do you?

My office has been doing reviews of locations and events to gauge the enforcement that is taking place across the diocese. Many locations are doing an outstanding job. In many instances, we have found that those who are not compliant are not actually active any longer. These individuals need to be made inactive, so please notify us of any of these people who are on your list. Unfortunately, we have also noticed that some are being allowed to work/volunteer with children that are not compliant with the policy. Please don't allow individuals to have access to children if they have not met the requirements of the Child Protection Policy. This is an enforcement issue which can be very difficult, but it is the right thing to do for children's safety.

I am providing the following statistics and encourage you to assist with stopping child abuse by closing these gaps. As you will read in the article by Elizabeth A. Heidt Kozisek, Ph.D., it is time to embrace the Child Protection Policy and integrate it into all of the programs that involve youth. In advance...THANK YOU for joining us on this journey.

- 401 active individuals need the Initial Child Protection Policy Training
- 3483 active individuals need the 2009-2010 Refresher Course
- 2146 active individuals need the CANTS check or to update their CANTS (updated every 2 years)
- 1336 active individuals need an application
- Approximately 1171 active individuals need a criminal background check or to update their criminal background check (updated every 5 years)

Key to Report

SS#	If we have a Social Security Number on file, x's will appear in this column for confidentiality. If blank, we do not have a social security number on file.
Birthdat	Individuals date of birth
CANTS	Date DCFS cleared the individual as having "no priors"
Vol	Date the individual signed the volunteer application
Employ	Date the individual signed the employment application
CI	Date that a background check was completed
InitialPol	Date the individual attended the Child Protection Policy Training
08-09Refresh	Date the individual completed the 2008-2009 Refresher Course: Bullying
09-10Refresh	Date the individual completed the 2009-2010 Refresher Course: Mandated Reporter Training
Testimon	For religious men and women only; Date in which we received their testimonial
St	Individual's status (A=Active, I=Inactive, T=Terminated, U=Unknown, R=Retired, D=Deceased)
Position	Position the individual holds at your location (ie...volunteer, employee, coach, PSR educator, Youth Ministry Chair, educator, TEC, Quest, Luke 18 etc...)
Yellow	Individual is out of compliance-needs to update a CANTS or CI, Initial Training is missing
Gray	Individual is still compliant, but will need to update the CANTS or CI within 3 months.

Tidbits



If you have completed the Children's Educational Presentation, please be sure to send in the Children's Educational Component Training Dates and Summary (Form 2).

15209 individuals have gone through the Initial Child Protection Policy Training!

3260 individuals have completed the 09-10 Refresher Course: Mandated Reporter Training!

Initial Child Protection Policy Trainings – Many are scheduled throughout the diocese, see diocesan website under Diocesan Events.

All forms should be sent and processed through the Office of Child Protection.
All checks should be payable to the Diocese of Belleville.