



## **DIOCESE OF ORANGE**

### **OFFICE OF CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION**

#### Safe Environment Training Options Confirmation and Youth Ministry

**Sessions:** A minimum of one Safe Environment session must be held for each grade level, in both Confirmation and Youth Ministry programs, each year.

**Letter to Parents:** A letter to parents should go home every year informing them of the safe environment training their youth will be offered. See template provided

**Basic Training Program:** Youth should be offered the; *For What It's Worth, Safe Environment, Healthy Relationships, or Healthy, Happy, and Holy* safety lessons each year as initial training. Awareness, personal safety education and skill training are the keys to preventing sexual abuse of minors. A successful program consists of both regular repetition of basic themes and the introduction of new material. Safety training is an ongoing topic that can be woven into your year round ministry topics. One make up session should be offered to youth who miss the first lesson.

Varying the above mentioned safe environment presentation and incorporating other resources from the "Approved" list e.g., an outside speakers from law enforcement or social services agencies, contributes to the overall success of the program.

**Training Options:** When utilizing the Safe Environment Training Options it is important to be intentional about what you are presenting; **teens should be made aware of what we mean by Safe Environment and that they are receiving Safe Environment Training.**

Whether you are using the above mentioned lessons or another approved SE training tool, e.g, speaker, media, etc. the following points **MUST** be covered at some point in the presentation by the presenter.

- What do I do if I find myself in a situation where abuse is taking place? Emotional, physical, sexual, bullying, etc
- What do I do if someone is violating boundaries with me, e.g. inappropriate communication via social media or in person,
- Where can I get help? Offer resources
- Where do I report abuse? Provide contact information for Child Protective Services, 911 and Diocesan Reporting Line, (800) 364-3064 if it involves a diocesan employee, volunteer, or clergy

1. Present the *For What It's Worth, Safe Environment, Healthy Relationships, or Healthy, Happy, and Holy* safety lessons as well as distribute the *Boundaries, A Guide For teens* brochure on the same day.
2. As a secondary option: Offer the Breaking the Silence training DVD program, the video is intended to be a conversation starter. It is most effective when broken into segments and viewed using the discussion questions. Please read and use the Facilitator's Guide that is included. This DVD was created to be used as an interactive training tool. This will not be effective if it's just "popped" into the DVD player without discussion.
3. If you choose to use a training option not listed above, please be sure it is approved by Norma Aguero, Director of OCYP at [naguero@rcbo.org](mailto:naguero@rcbo.org). All training options should be chosen to fulfill one or more of the components as listed in *Safe Environment FAQs*

**ON-LINE SAFETY TRAINING:** Online safety training, e.g. Shield The Vulnerable training course, should NEVER be used as a training option to fulfill the safe environment training requirement for minors.

**OPTING OUT POLICY:** Parents have the right to request that their teen be opted out of receiving safe environment training. However, the option to opt out should never be offered by the Youth Minister/Confirmation Coordinator. Parishes are required to provide safe environment training to all youth. If a parent/guardian privately approaches the YM/CC and communicates the desire for their teen to not participate, they are to submit a note stating their decision. Opt out notes should be kept on file at the parish. It is suggested that the YM/CC share with the parents an outline of what will be presented before presenting the material to youth. Many times parents are misinformed as to the content of what will be presented and may change their mind on opting out after reviewing the subject matter to be presented.

## RESOURCES: Where to Get Help

- ✚ Diocesan Reporting Line: (800) 364-3064
- ✚ Orange County Child Protective Services: (714) 940-1000
- ✚ Diocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection: (714) 282-3125
- ✚ Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Office: (714) 282-3055
- ✚ National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: (800) 843-5678
- ✚ National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: (800) 273-8255
- ✚ NAMI Suicide Hotline (877)-CRISIS or (877) 727-4747
- ✚ National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline: (866) 331-9474
- ✚ National Sexual Assault Hotline: (800) 656-HOPE (4673)