

Ways to Prevent Abuse in Faith Communities



Think about prevention.

No faith community is free from the risk of children being harmed by sexual abuse.

Protect our faith community by speaking out.

Openly addressing the potential risk of sexual abuse taking place within your faith community can protect both children and your community.

Comprehensive policies.

In addition to background checks, comprehensive policies and practices are the best protection against children being harmed.

Question confusing or uncertain behaviors.

Create an atmosphere that encourages people to question confusing or uncertain behaviors and practices.

Respond to inappropriate behavior.

Speaking up about your concerns is not the same as accusing someone of sexual behaviors, and it can prevent someone from escalating their behavior.

Reduce risk in the physical environment.

Look at your physical environment from the viewpoint of someone who may want to isolate a child.

Is child sexual abuse really such a big problem?

Surveys of U.S. adults consistently show that more than one in five adults were sexually abused during childhood. That means that there are potentially 45 million adults now living in the U.S. who were sexually abused as children.

www.stopitnow.org



Diocese of
Green Bay

Protecting Our Children

“Together we are called to minister to all of God’s people and show special care for our children and those who are at risk. We as the Church strive to create environments where all people treat each other with dignity, charity and respect and that the faithful are served by men and women who fully reflect the love and protection of Jesus Christ.”

Most Reverend David L. Ricken, DD, JCL
Bishop of Green Bay