



Safe Environment e-Newsletter

June 2016

PROMISE
TO PROTECT



PLEDGE TO
HEAL

What's New?

The first edition of the quarterly Diocese of Little Rock Safe Environment e-Newsletter which you are reading now!

Remember to keep your email address updated in your VIRTUS account so that you can continue to receive the upcoming quarterly e-Newsletters!

What Parents Need to Know

- Google Safe Search is a child friendly search engine that removes potentially explicit material when searching Google. For more information, visit: www.safesearchkids.com
- What is "tagging"? If you want to know more about social media safety, check out: <http://www.ncpc.org/topics/internet-safety/social-networking-safety>

Tips for Recognizing Potential Abuse

It is important that caring adults and parents make sure our children are safe from sexual abuse. Some behaviors in children may be indicators of sexual abuse. Although no one behavior necessarily means that a child has been sexually abused, the presence of several behaviors may suggest that you ask further questions or seek help. Behaviors that are warning signs in children may include:

- Having unexplained nightmares or other sleep issues
- Seeming distracted
- Having mood swings
- Suddenly having money, toys or other gifts without reason
- Exhibiting adult-like sexual behaviors, language and knowledge
- Developing new or unusual anxiety of certain people or places

For more information on possible warning signs, please visit:

<https://www.nsopw.gov/en/Education/RecognizingSexualAbuse>

What the Law Says

Arkansas law requires certain people to report suspected child maltreatment, which includes child sexual abuse. If you are aware of abuse or have been abused by a member of Church personnel, please contact:

State of Arkansas Hotline for Crimes Against Children, (800) 482-5964

AND

Matthew A. Glover, Chancellor for Canonical Affairs, (501) 664-0340, ext. 361

Dr. George Simon or Dr. Sherry Simon, Victim Assistance Coordinators, (501) 766-6001

FAQs

Q: What are "Victim Assistance Coordinators"?

A: Victim Assistance Coordinators are available to anyone who has been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church. They listen to your needs, support you, and give you guidance on next steps. The Victim Assistance Coordinators in our diocese are:

Dr. George Simon or Dr. Sherry Simon at (501) 766-6001