

## Child Protection in the Diocese of Sioux City

The Diocese of Sioux City is committed to providing safe and secure environments for the children who participate in our parish and school programs and activities.

The policies and practices described in this brochure are focused on prevention of child victimization through screening of personnel, implementing child safety practices, and working with the Catholic community, law enforcement, and community leaders to prevent abuse of any kind.

If you have questions, concerns, or would like more information, contact the Office of Safe Environment, Dan Ellis, Director, at 712 233 7517

[DanE@scdiocese.org](mailto:DanE@scdiocese.org)



To report suspected child abuse call the Iowa Child Abuse Hotline: 800-362-2178.

If you are an adult who has suffered abuse by a member of the clergy or someone who works for the Catholic Church, please contact: Angie Mack, Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mercy Child Advocacy Center, Sioux City: 866-435-4397, or 712-279-5610

### Diocese of Sioux City

1821 Jackson Street  
Sioux City, Iowa 51105  
Phone: 712 255 7933

[www.scdiocese.org](http://www.scdiocese.org)

## Diocese of Sioux City

### Child Protection Policies and Programs



*Office of Safe Environment*

*Diocese of Sioux City*

## Code of Conduct

The Diocese of Sioux City has a strict Code of Conduct that all clergy, employees and volunteers who work in our parishes, child care centers, and schools must adhere to. This Code of Conduct establishes behavioral guidelines based on Catholic moral values as taught in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The complete Code of Conduct can be found on the Diocese of Sioux City website under "Safe Environment".

### Screening of Personnel

All employees and those volunteers who regularly work with children in any capacity must clear a 50-state criminal background check.

All background check results are reviewed by the diocesan Safe Environment and Risk Management directors before an applicant can begin working with children.

### Reporting

All those who work with children in the diocese are trained to report any suspicion or evidence of child abuse or

child neglect to Child Protective Services, civil authorities, school or parish authorities, and the Office of Safe Environment.

### Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention

All clergy, employees, and volunteers working with children in diocesan programs are required to attend a "Protecting God's Children" awareness class. This three - hour class covers the broad societal issue of child sexual abuse and other forms of victimization of children, and how to recognize the warning signs that someone may be attempting to victimize a child.

Child care workers, employees, and clergy continue this education through required monthly training bulletins. The diocese also welcomes parents and all concerned adults to attend this training class, offered throughout the diocese free of charge.

### Open Door Policy

Parents are welcome to make arrangements for a visit their child's parish or school classroom. We encourage parents to develop working relationships with teachers, catechists, clergy, and all those who work with their children.

### Training for children

Catholic Schools in the diocese offer training programs that teach children to protect themselves from victimization And how to recognize safe adults. Complete Parent Guides to the "Teaching Touching Safety" curriculum can be found on the diocesan website. ([www.scdiocese.org](http://www.scdiocese.org))

### Safety in Practice

\*The "two adult rule" applies in all situations where adults are working with children. Adults never meet with children alone in a secluded area, including when driving children to school or parish events.

\*All interaction between children and adults must meet the **P A N** guideline:

**Public - Appropriate - Non-sexual.**

\*Parents or other staff should be copied on all electronic communications with their children from school or parish leaders, including text messages and emails. Parish and school personnel should communicate with groups of children via distribution lists, and such messages should be limited to information relevant to the school or parish. Private online conversations between staff and students are not allowed.

\*Adults who transport children to school or parish events must take the "Safe Driving" online course through Catholic Mutual, the insurance carrier for the diocese. The link to this course is found on the diocesan website.