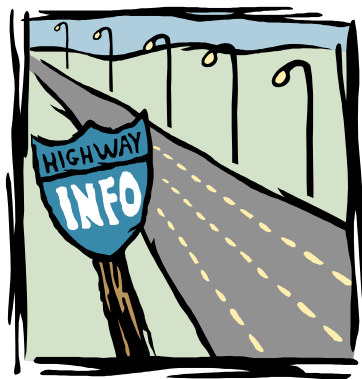


New Archdiocesan On-line Training Program Launched: How to Recognize, Report & Prevent Child Abuse - “Shield the Vulnerable”

It would not be an overstatement to announce to you that we are thrilled about this new on-line training for **employees and volunteers with regular contact with children** to recognize, report and prevent child abuse. From our perspective the need for a standardized and effective training instrument has been building, but we hadn't found a cost-effective and practical way to deliver this to our thousands of employees and volunteers that serve the children of the Archdiocese. That is, until we partnered with LawRoom to provide the California state mandatory sexual harassment prevention training for supervisors (in response to AB1825), and received such positive feedback from you and others in leadership positions. Their approach, graphics, cost, and tracking services, and their ability to customize their “product” to meet our specific cultural needs all presented them as the perfect partner for this training project. After 6 months of collaborative work¹, we now present to you an on-line training that informs and inspires, in English and Spanish, and, we judge, that meets the training needs of our employees and volunteers who have regular contact with children. It will also replace the Archdiocese's sexual misconduct video as required for new employees and volunteers.

THE DEAL

Before we go into more detail about the content of “Shield the Vulnerable,” we thought that you'd like to know the deal. The deal is that **the Archdiocese will pay** for this training **if completed by December 31, 2006**. The training is primarily on-line and, if necessary, available in a scheduled classroom setting. The on-line thought that financially beginning of implementation the word out. The other great volunteers **self-register**. In that the employee or volunteer list, and then that parish/school successfully finishes the easier registration and tracking factors will help spread the friendly and important training.



the course may be done on-line at any time from any computer with internet access, lasts only about 60 minutes, and may be completed in more than one sitting.

version costs \$6 per person.² We sponsoring the training at the would help encourage your getting news for you is that employees and process (which is described below), selects their parish/school from a will be notified when the person training. We couldn't think of an system. We hope that these two “good news” about this user- Other positive factors include that

(Please turn over)

THE CONTENT

After a letter from Archbishop George Niederauer affirming our Archdiocesan pledge to do everything we can to ensure the safety of our children and an orientation on how to navigate through “Shield the Vulnerable,” the person taking the course is presented with certain myths



about child abuse, followed by the realities of the scope of abuse and neglect. Case studies are used to distinguish among the types of abuse, and to train towards clues that might tip off an attentive adult. Then the requirements and details of reporting suspicions of abuse are described, along with the punishments for not reporting reasonable suspicions. These are clarified with the use of case studies and compliance quizzes, designed to mentally prepare someone to call the authorities when they recognize signs of potential abuse or neglect. Tips on helping to build an abuse-free environment are shared. Then the Archdiocese’s Standards of Conduct are presented and tested for understanding with a variety

of situational questions. Lastly, the newly trained participant can complete a survey to evaluate the training, and they can print a certificate of completion for their records.

ACCESSING THE TRAINING

Please instruct your relevant employees and volunteers to go to www.shieldthevulnerable.org/signup.asp to find the registration page for “Shield the Vulnerable.” More information will be forthcoming from the Office of Human Resources to help you or your designate coordinate the tracking of the training completions.

THE REQUIREMENTS

The USCCB’s Charter for the dioceses provide appropriate training regular contact with children. “Shield training for the Archdiocese of San parish/school respectively to make sure volunteers with regular contact with than March 31, 2007. **We encourage you to take advantage of the incentive offer by the Archdiocese to pay for this training up until December 31, 2006.** By advising all relevant people at your parish and encouraging them to complete the training before the end of the year, you could save your parish thousands of dollars (depending on size). It would be good to also verify that they have completed their fingerprinting or background check requirements, as stated by policy. For questions pertaining to the new on-line training, call Patrick Schmidt at (415) 614-5538 or email him at schmidtp@sfarchdiocese.org. For questions regarding fingerprinting or background checking, contact Tom Hoffman at (415) 614-5539 or email him at hoffmant@sfarchdiocese.org.



Protection of Children requires that all for employees and volunteers who have the Vulnerable” is now the required Francisco³ and it is the job of each that all of your employees and children complete this training no later

¹ This training is the result of the collaborative work of LawRoom with the Safe Environment Office, the Department of Catholic Schools, the Office of Religious Education, the Legal Office, and the Office of Human Resources all under the leadership and guidance of the Archbishop of San Francisco.

² Depending on need, there may also be a classroom version for \$8 per participant that will be made available in late 2006.

³ Pastors, Principals and Agency Heads have recently received a letter from Archbishop Niederauer describing this requirement, with the final completion date of March 31, 2007.