

You can protect them.



Learn how at a
Protecting God's Children
Awareness Session.



Join the 5,000 adults who
have already attended a
session.

To report a suspicion that a child is
being harmed or at risk of being
harmed contact your county's
Department of Human Services.

Allegan County	269-673-7700
Barry County	269-948-3233
Berrien County	269-934-2300
Branch County	517-279-4200
Calhoun County	269-966-1331
Cass County	269-445-0200
Kalamazoo County	269-337-5046
St. Joseph County	269-467-1250
Van Buren County	269-621-2953

**Childhelp® USA National Child Abuse
Hotline 1-800-4-A-CHILD®**

1-800-422-4453

TDD: 1-800-2-A-CHILD

Childhelp® USA is a non-profit agency
which can provide reporting numbers, and
has Hotline counselors who can provide
referrals.

**To report an allegation about
someone in Church ministry call
877-802-0115 and/or the
appropriate civil authorities.**

A Guide to the Diocesan Safe Environment Program



Diocese of Kalamazoo



Safe Environment Office
215 N. Westnedge Ave.
Kalamazoo MI 49007
269-349-8714 x 246

Why are we doing this?

Children are God's greatest gift. The Diocese of Kalamazoo is committed to creating safe environments for all children in our parishes and schools. It is a necessary part of what we do.

Adults are responsible for protecting children, for creating safe environments for them to be in. Learn what you can do by attending a Protecting God's Children awareness session.



Did you know ????

There are over 2,200 registered sex offenders in the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

Sixty percent of all abuse is committed by someone known and trusted by the child and the family.

One in 4 girls and 1 in 10 boys are victims of sexual abuse. There are 40 million survivors of child sexual abuse.

Child sexual abuse is a planned crime, carefully thought out by most offenders.

How are we doing this?

All clergy, employees and volunteers who work with children are screened to assist us in determining who should or should not be around children.

All clergy, employees and volunteers who work with children are trained to recognize behavior which may be a red flag of potential child sexual abuse.

For Adults -

Protecting God's Children is a research based training program that examines the nature and scope of child sexual abuse and what steps adults can take to prevent it.



For children -

Teaching Touching Safety is a research based program designed to help parents teach children personal safety guidelines. Parents are given a handbook to help them decide what and how to talk to their children about personal safety issues. Lessons are reinforced at school and in Religious Education classes.

There are things you can do.

- ◆ Know the warning signs of an inappropriate adult-child relationship.



- ◆ Control who has access to children by carefully selecting the adults who work with children and youth.
- ◆ Monitor all programs to be sure safety guidelines are in place.
- ◆ Be aware of what is happening in the lives of children.



- ◆ Communicate concerns that you may have to the appropriate person in authority.