

KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS

SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM



Squire and Parent Handbook



KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS®

Daily Devotion to the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, I ask of you the gift of **wisdom** for a better understanding of you and of your divine perfection.

I ask of you the gift of **intellect** for a better understanding of the essence of the mysteries of the Holy Faith.

Give me the gift of **knowledge** so that I may know how to orient my life in accordance with the principles of faith.

Give me the gift of **counsel** so that in all things I can seek counsel from you and can always find it in you.

Give me the gift of **strength** so that no fear or earthly motivations can take me away from you.

Give me the gift of **piety** so that I can always serve your majesty with filial love.

Give me the gift of the **fear of God** so that no fear or earthly motivations can take me away from you.

Amen.

This prayer to the Holy Spirit was given to St. John Paul II by his father as a child. St. John Paul II remained faithful to his father's prayer until the last days of his life, praying it each day.

Foreword

St. John Paul II, in his *Letter to Families*, professed that the “future of humanity passes by way of the family.”¹ This is a reminder that Jesus came into the world through the family, and that our own experience of God’s love occurs first as a child within the community of the family. It is the parents’ duty and right to nurture the Catholic faith in their children as they grow into spiritual maturity.² Though our lives today are rife with countless distractions that can weaken and even dismantle the family, our “faith...is a light for [the] darkness,” guiding us to grow in God’s love.³ Throughout its history, Knights of Columbus has promoted family life in all its initiatives and programs, including those for young people.

Recognizing that children are a precious gift and the living reflection of familial love, the safety and well-being of young people is the greatest priority in Knights of Columbus youth programs and activities.

The Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program helps protect young people against risks that exist today, including child abuse and neglect. The Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program consists of a thorough youth leader screening process, child abuse awareness training, and a robust reporting procedure in the event of possible misconduct. Parents may fulfill their “first duty in the heart of the ‘domestic church’” by using the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Squire and Parent Handbook as a guide for teaching their children about personal safety.⁴

All of us understand that our public and private conduct can inspire and motivate young people, as well as scandalize and undermine young people’s faith. Today, it is not enough to “evangelize...only by word, but...in the strength of living love.”⁵ Only then can we be assured that our families and our parish communities, can grow in God’s love.⁶

Fraternally,



Carl A. Anderson, Supreme Knight

¹ Pope John Paul II, *On the Family: Apostolic Exhortation, Familiaris Consortio, of His Holiness Pope John Paul II to the Episcopate, to the Clergy and to the Faithful of the Whole Catholic Church Regarding the Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World*, 14, 1981.
² http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_19811122_familiaris-consortio_en.html (last visited October 28, 2014)
³ Pope John Paul II, *Letter to Families*, 10, 1994.
⁴ Pope Francis, *Lumen Fidei*, 4, 2013.
⁵ Id., *Familiaris Consortio*, 14.
⁶ The Pontifical Council for the Family, *The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality*, 5, 1995.
⁶ Pope Benedict XVI, *Homily of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI at 7th World Meeting of Families*, 2, 2012.
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/homilies/2012/documents/hf_ben-xvi_hom_20120603_milano_en.html (last visited October 28, 2014)

Contents

1. Introduction	4
2. Safe Environment Program: For Squires	5
A. Squire Personal Safety Code	5
B. What Squires Need to Know	5
C. Rules for Personal Safety	5
D. Rules for Internet Safety	6
3. Safe Environment Program: For Parents	7
A. Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect	7
B. Important Definitions	7
Child Physical Abuse	7
Child Emotional Abuse	7
Neglect	7
Child Sexual Abuse	7
Mandatory Reporter	7
Youth Participant	7
Youth Leader	7
C. Maintaining a Safe Environment for Young People	8
D. Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program	9
General Policies	9
Policies for Youth Leader-Participant Interaction	9
Policies for Travel and Overnight Programs	10
Policies for Monitoring Restrooms	10
Policies for Monitoring Free Time	11
Policies for Social Media and the Internet	11
Policies for Preventing Youth-to-Youth Abuse	11
Policies for Outside Contact with Youth Participants	11
E. Recognizing Signs of Abuse and Neglect	12
Signs of Abuse or Neglect in a Child	12
Signs of a Potential Abuser	13
F. Responding to Reports of Abuse	13

4. Reporting Responsibility14

- A. Reporting Allegations of Misconduct14
- B. Contact Information for Reporting Agencies14

Appendix A: Further Reading15

- From the Church15
- From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops15
- From the Knights of Columbus16
- From Youth Serving Organizations17
- From Government Agencies17

Appendix B: Bibliography18

1. Welcome to the Columbian Squires!

What is the Columbian Squires?

The Columbian Squires is the official youth organization of the Knights of Columbus, founded by Brother Barnabas McDonald in 1925.⁷ What began as a single Squire circle in Duluth, Minnesota has since grown into an international fraternity of approximately 25,000 Squires in over 1,500 circles worldwide. Each Squire circle is sponsored by a local Knights of Columbus council or assembly, and squires are led by Knights who have been trained as Knights of Columbus Youth Leaders. Any Catholic young man between the ages of 10 and 18 who wishes to gain leadership skills, benefit his community, and grow in his Catholic faith is eligible to become a Squire.

The Columbian Squires is a unique organization that fosters the physical, intellectual, civic and spiritual development of young men in accordance with the principles of the Catholic faith. Squires build leadership in each of these areas by conducting their own meetings, setting their circle's agenda, and implementing programs and activities. Squires program initiatives include supporting the Special Olympics, collecting food for community food banks, and promoting the Culture of Life.

Becoming a Columbian Squire

Parents and sons should study this handbook together, and use it as a guide to start a conversation about the great rewards of Catholic fraternity, and the importance of personal safety. After reviewing this booklet as a family, a parent may fill out the *Columbian Squires Application Form* acknowledging that the handbook has been read and understood, and submit it to their local Squire Circle.

Keeping Squires Safe

Each Squire's growth as a Catholic young man is at the center of each circle's mission, and the safety of every Squire is always built into each meeting, program, and activity. **The Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program** helps to ensure that all youth active in its programs are safe from the dangers of child abuse and neglect. Each youth leader working with a Squire circle must undergo a background check and is required to complete all diocesan and Knights of Columbus Safe Environment training before participating in any Squire circle meetings, ceremonies or activities.

Squire Counselors and other youth leaders actively protect and educate the young people they serve through Knights of Columbus and Columbian Squires activities, but it is important that parents and guardians recognize their responsibility to protect and educate their children as well. Families should study this handbook together in order to ensure every Squire is aware of the risks of child abuse and neglect.

**If you suspect or know of abuse, immediately notify
local law enforcement and call the Knights of Columbus
Safe Environment Hotline at 1-844-KOFC-SAFE (1-844-513-2723)**

⁷ W.J. Battersby, *Brother Barnabas: Pioneer in Modern Social Service*, 157-164, 1970

2. Safe Environment Program: For Squires

A. Squire Personal Safety Code

Every Squire should learn and memorize the Squire Personal Safety Code. The code will help each Squire know what to do in order to protect himself from abuse.

- **Trust Your Instincts.**
- **Expect Privacy.**
- **Say No to Inappropriate Touches or Speech.**
- **Refuse Inappropriate Gifts.**
- **Withhold Personal Information.**
- **Immediately Leave any Uncomfortable Situation.**
- **Disobey Adults if Your Safety is in Jeopardy.**
- **Report any Abuse or Attempted Abuse.**

Remember, **you always have the right to report situations that make you uncomfortable**, even if an adult tells you otherwise.

B. What Squires Need to Know

When a young man joins the Columbian Squires, he is making a pledge to nurture his physical, intellectual, civic and spiritual development through the teachings of the Catholic Church. Although most activities in a Squire's life encourage personal improvement, there are some situations that can stifle it. Neglect and child abuse, especially sexual abuse, is one such situation. Learning about abuse is uncomfortable, but the more information a Squire has about abuse, the better equipped he is to prevent abuse from happening in his community. Ask your parents to read through this handbook with you, help you to understand what child physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect are, and learn how to best protect yourself.

C. Rules for Personal Safety

As a young person, it is important to know the acceptable boundaries between children and adults, what types of speech and behavior are appropriate, and how to recognize potentially abusive people and situations. Just because an adult is your caretaker, or respected by your parents and the community, doesn't mean you shouldn't tell a safe adult that they make you feel uncomfortable. Your safety is always most important.

- No adult has the right to see or touch the areas a swimsuit covers.
- Do not go anywhere or get in a car with anyone unless you have your parents' permission, even if they ask you for your help.
- Do not keep "special secrets" with an older child or adult that asks you to do so. Tell your parents instead.

- Never accept expensive or inappropriate gifts from adults.
- Never consume any alcohol or drugs offered by an adult. It is always illegal for anyone under 21 to drink alcohol, even when an adult gives permission, as alcohol and drugs are often used by predators to molest and abuse young people.
- Expect privacy while using rest rooms, showering, changing clothes, and in sleeping areas.
- Immediately report any pornographic material shown or given to you by an adult or older child.
- Understand that pornography featuring children is illegal.
- If someone touches you or speaks to you in a way that makes you uncomfortable, immediately leave the situation and tell an adult you can trust.

D. Rules for Internet Safety

Laptops, smart phones, social media, and the Internet are important tools that can connect us to friends, family, and the world around us in an instant. We rely on these technologies daily, and it can be easy to forget that although we may use them in the privacy of our homes, we are in a public space. As such, we should exercise the same caution while using the Internet as we do when we are in the grocery store or at the public pool. Following the rules below will keep you safe on the Internet:

- Follow your parents' rules for using the Internet, including time limits, surfing the Web in the living room or somewhere you can be supervised, and staying off certain sites.
- Be sure the privacy settings on all social media profiles are on their highest settings, allowing only those people you know to view your pictures, posts and information.
- Understand that posts, pictures, emails, and chats sent over the Internet never disappear, even if you delete them. Never send explicit or personal images or information as it may not stay private, or ever really be gone from the Internet.
- Never disclose personal information online as a part of a quiz or survey.
- Never meet someone in person whom you only know online.
- Never open an email from someone whom you do not know, or that has a suspicious subject.
- Be aware that predators frequently disguise themselves as teens in chat rooms and on social media sites—if you have never met someone who contacts you online, they may not be who they say they are.
- If anyone says something to you or sends you pictures, videos, or links to websites that make you feel uncomfortable, immediately stop communicating with that person and tell a trusted adult.

3. Safe Environment Program: For Parents

A. Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect

Physical, emotional, and sexual abuse and neglect are risks to young people of all ages and in all parts of the world. Although abuse and neglect may be hidden in plain sight, they are real and pervasive problems affecting communities everywhere.

Sexual abuse, in particular, can only be combated when parents and children are aware of the facts surrounding this often-hidden form of abuse. Here are some sobering statistics:

- One in four girls and one in six boys are abused sexually before age 18.⁸
- Three out of four adolescents that were abused knew their abuser well.⁹
- Parents, family members, friends of the parents and other caretakers can all be abusers.¹⁰
- Thirty-two percent of perpetrators who were returned to the streets abused again.¹¹
- In 2012 alone, 3.8 million reports of child abuse were made in the United States.¹²

Child abuse and neglect is a complicated issue. Although this may make it difficult to know how to approach the subject with your children, by defining terms clearly and revolving the conversation around awareness and self-protection, your children will know that abuse is a serious issue, and feel comfortable coming to you with questions or concerns about their personal safety.

B. Important Definitions

Child Physical Abuse — Purposeful infliction of physical injury caused by hitting, throwing, burning, choking or otherwise harming a child by use of force.

Child Emotional Abuse — Non-physical infliction of emotional harm upon a child that includes constant threats, criticism, rejection and withheld love and support that impedes a child's development.

Neglect — The failure of parents or caregivers to provide for a child's basic needs, including food, shelter, medical treatment, and personal safety.

Child Sexual Abuse — Any act that exploits a minor (person under 18 years of age) for the sexual gratification of another. These behaviors include, but are not limited to:

Non-Touching

- **Inappropriate Speech:** innuendo, vulgar or obscene language, sexually graphic stories and jokes, etc.

⁸ World Health Organization, *World report on violence and health: summary*, 2002.

⁹ Center for Disease Control and Prevention, *Adverse Childhood Experiences Study: Data and Statistics*, 2005.

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, *Child Maltreatment 2005*, 2007.

¹¹ U.S. Department of Justice, *Child Sexual Molestation: Research Issues*, 1997.

¹² Children's Bureau, *Child Maltreatment 2012*, 2013.

- **Pornography:** immodest, sexually graphic or obscene printed images, photos or text, videos, video games, CDs, DVDs, movies, TV shows, web pages, song lyrics, etc.
- **Child Pornography:** pornography featuring children under the age of 18.
- **Voyeurism:** observing unsuspecting persons in private settings for sexual gratification.
- **Exhibitionism:** indecent exposure.

Touching

- Unwanted or forced displays of affection.
- Inappropriate touching of the genital area, groin, anus, inner thighs, buttocks or breasts, or other areas of the body.
- A request for or forced touching of the adult's intimate parts.
- Sexual relations with a person under 18 years of age.

Mandatory Reporter: A person who, because his or her work involves regular contact with children, is mandated by law to report suspected child abuse or neglect. Most states designate educators, professional caregivers, clergy, medical workers, etc. as mandatory reporters.

All Knights of Columbus Youth Leaders and Officers are Mandatory Reporters

Youth Participant: Any person under the age of 18 years present at or participating in Knights of Columbus sponsored programming.

Youth Leader: Any knight who has substantial and sustained contact with youth through a council sponsored youth group, Squire Circle or Boy Scout Troop.

C. Maintaining a Safe Environment for Young People

While the subject of sexual abuse may be difficult to discuss with your children, as a parent it is your duty to equip your child with the information and tools needed to be aware of and protect against abuse. Speaking openly to your children about the dangers of child abuse lets them know that they can come to you with any concerns, and ensures if abuse does occur, your child will report the incident to you.

- Teach children the proper names for their private areas so they can easily identify where an abuser has touched them. Avoid slang and derogatory language when speaking about the body.
- Teach your children to trust their feelings and that they have a right to say "No" even if it may be rude or disobedient to do so.
- Teach your children to immediately tell an adult authority if someone touches them in the areas covered by a swimsuit or in an uncomfortable way.
- Know where your children are, who their friends are, and meet their friends' parents, as well as any other adults who have custody of your children such as babysitters and squire counselors.
- Be sensitive of sudden changes in your child's behavior. Keep communication open

between you and your child so he or she feels comfortable speaking about what may have caused any changes.

- Be alert to a person paying an unusual amount of attention to your child or giving inappropriate or expensive gifts to your child.

D. Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program

As a parent, it is important to be familiar with the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program policies. Knowing these policies allows parents to become true partners in their child’s personal safety, and can help a parent know when to report suspicious behavior, policy violations, and potential abuse.

General Policies

- Youth leaders should never supervise youth participants alone. At least two youth leaders should be present at every program and activity.
- Youth leaders, when counseling a youth participant, should always be in the same room as others or visible to others.
- Youth leaders should not give gifts to youth participants without approval from their grand knight or faithful navigator and notification of the parent(s).
- Youth leaders should always be aware of other adults present at Knights of Columbus youth programs and they must be alert for signs of possible misconduct.
- Youth leaders should notify their grand knight or faithful navigator when they recognize a policy violation or other possible misconduct that may impact child safety.
- Youth leaders should make all programs and activities open to parents and guardians.
- Youth leaders should not initiate, encourage or engage in one-on-one contact with youth participants outside of sanctioned Knights of Columbus programs and activities.

Policies for Youth Leader-Participant Interaction

Appropriate Physical Interactions	Inappropriate Physical Interactions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Side hugs <input type="checkbox"/> Shoulder-to-shoulder or “temple” hugs <input type="checkbox"/> Pats on the shoulder or back <input type="checkbox"/> Handshakes <input type="checkbox"/> High-fives and hand slapping <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal praise <input type="checkbox"/> Pats on the head when culturally appropriate <input type="checkbox"/> Touching hands, shoulders and arms <input type="checkbox"/> Arms around shoulders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Full-frontal hugs <input type="checkbox"/> Kisses <input type="checkbox"/> Showing affection in isolated area <input type="checkbox"/> Lap sitting <input type="checkbox"/> Wrestling <input type="checkbox"/> Piggyback rides <input type="checkbox"/> Tickling <input type="checkbox"/> Any type of massage given by or to a youth <input type="checkbox"/> Any form of affection that is unwanted by the youth or staff or volunteer <input type="checkbox"/> Compliments relating to physique or body development <input type="checkbox"/> Touching bottom, chest or genital areas

Appropriate Verbal Interactions	Inappropriate Verbal Interactions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Positive reinforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate jokes <input type="checkbox"/> Encouragement <input type="checkbox"/> Praise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Name-calling <input type="checkbox"/> Discussing sexual encounters or in any way involving youths in the personal problems or issues of staff and volunteers <input type="checkbox"/> Secrets <input type="checkbox"/> Cursing <input type="checkbox"/> Off-color or sexual jokes <input type="checkbox"/> Shaming <input type="checkbox"/> Belittling <input type="checkbox"/> Derogatory remarks <input type="checkbox"/> Harsh language that may frighten, threaten or humiliate youths <input type="checkbox"/> Derogatory remarks about the youth or his/her family

Policies for Travel and Overnight Programs

- All off-site and overnight activities must be pre-approved by grand knight or faithful navigator and parents.
- Youth leaders should make all programs and activities open to parents and guardians.
- Youth leaders, other than the youth participant's parent or guardian, should not share a sleeping area with a youth participant.
- Youth leaders should always protect their own privacy while showering, dressing, sleeping and toileting.
- Youth leaders should always respect youth participants' privacy while showering, dressing, sleeping and toileting. Youth leaders should not enter rest room, dressing or sleeping facilities when in use by youth participants, except in cases of a dire safety or health concern.
- Youth leaders should enforce curfews with a room check conducted by two youth leaders, both male, or both female, as appropriate.
- Youth leaders should not allow youth participants to have members of the opposite sex, except a parent, in their sleeping area at any time.

Policies for Monitoring Restrooms

- Youth leaders should be aware that most incidents of youth-to-youth abuse occur in restrooms, and should conduct frequent restroom checks.
- Youth leaders should scan restrooms before allowing youth to enter.
- Youth leaders should never allow less than three youth participants to travel to a restroom facility together.
- Youth leaders should allow only as many youth as there are restroom stalls to use the restroom at the same time.

- Youth leaders should avoid sending youth of different ages into restrooms at the same time.
- Youth leaders should remain within earshot of restrooms while in use by youth.
- Youth leaders should require youth to ask permission before using a single-stall restroom or restroom out of earshot of the group.
- Youth leaders should not use restrooms at the same time as youth.

Policies for Monitoring Free Time

- Youth leaders should require youth to remain within their line of sight.
- At least two youth leaders should supervise youth at all times.
- Youth leaders should conduct periodic check-ins and sweeps of entire activity area.

Policies for Social Media and the Internet

- Youth leaders should only communicate via email or home (not cell) phone with youth participants.
- Youth leaders should limit communication with youth participants to Knights of Columbus youth program related topics.
- Youth leaders should copy parents or guardians on all email and phone communications with youth participants.
- Youth leaders should never encourage youth participants to contact them via text message or on any other social media platform.
- Youth leaders should never send inappropriate, vulgar or pornographic material to youth participants via email, text message, chat, bulletin board or other social media platforms.

Policies for Preventing Youth-to-Youth Abuse

- Youth leaders should always supervise youth in order to mitigate risk of youth-to-youth abuse.
- Youth leaders should not leave an older youth alone and in charge of younger youth.
- Youth leaders should strictly prohibit hazing inside or outside of youth programs and activities.
- Youth leaders should strictly prohibit bullying, including but not limited to, derogatory name calling, singling out one youth for different treatment, ridicule, or humiliation.
- Youth leaders should strictly prohibit games such as “Truth or Dare”.
- Youth leaders should consistently document and report all instances of bullying, hazing, inappropriate sexualized behavior and suspected abuse between youth.

Policies for Outside Contact with Youth Participants

Many cases of organizational abuse occur off-site and outside of regularly scheduled activities. This contact outside of regularly scheduled activities may put everyone at increased risk. Knights of Columbus strongly recommends that youth leaders do not have outside contact with youth participants. However, if off-site contacts are unavoidable, Knights of Columbus has determined that the following forms of outside contact are appropriate and inappropriate:

Appropriate Outside Contact	Inappropriate Outside Contact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Taking groups of youths on an outing <input type="checkbox"/> Attending sporting activities with groups of youths <input type="checkbox"/> Attending functions at a youth's home, with parents present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Taking one youth on an outing without the parents' written permission <input type="checkbox"/> Visiting one youth in the youth's home, without a parent present <input type="checkbox"/> Entertaining one youth in the home of staff or volunteers <input type="checkbox"/> A lone youth spending the night with staff or volunteers

E. Recognizing Signs of Abuse and Neglect

There are many signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect. A victim of abuse may display one or many of these signs. One of these symptoms on its own does not necessarily point to child abuse and neglect. A child who shows a few or many of these symptoms is more likely to be a victim of abuse. You should also be aware of suspicious behavior from older children or adults, who may be potential abusers.

Signs of Abuse or Neglect in a Child

- ◆ Loss of appetite, trouble eating or swallowing.
- ◆ Chronic stomach illness with no identifiable cause.
- ◆ Cutting, burning, or otherwise hurting oneself.
- ◆ Bruises, rashes, cuts, limping, multiple or unexplained injuries.
- ◆ Complaining of hunger.
- ◆ Constantly being dressed in dirty, old, or inadequate clothing for the season.
- ◆ Displaying obvious signs of poor hygiene.
- ◆ Pain, itching, bleeding, fluid or rawness of the private body parts.
- ◆ Difficulty sitting.
- ◆ Changes in toileting habits.
- ◆ Older child acting like a younger child or infant; thumb sucking, clinging, etc.
- ◆ Nightmares, fear of going to bed, or other sleep disturbances such as bed wetting.
- ◆ Fear of certain people or activities.
- ◆ Talking about a new older youth or adult friend.
- ◆ Suddenly having money or new toys, games, clothing, or electronics.
- ◆ Refusing to talk about a secret he/she has with an older youth or adult.
- ◆ Inappropriate sexual activity, an unusual interest in sexual matters, or knowledge of sexuality beyond a child's maturity.
- ◆ New words for private body parts.
- ◆ Sudden academic and/or behavioral problems at school.

- ◆ Significant behavioral changes, extreme mood swings, withdrawal, fearfulness, or aggressive acting out.
- ◆ Trouble paying attention.

Signs of a Potential Abuser

- ◆ Constantly trying to be alone with youth.
- ◆ Constantly speaking negatively about a youth.
- ◆ Not being able to offer consistent or reasonable excuses for a youth's injuries.
- ◆ Constantly being late or forgetting to pick up youth from programs and activities.
- ◆ Bending or breaking rules and policies or allowing youth to bend or break the rules.
- ◆ Complaining that adults are more difficult to work with than youth.
- ◆ Speaking about youth in an inappropriate, romantic, or sexual manner.
- ◆ Giving gifts or money to youth.

F. Responding to Reports of Abuse

Although it is not likely that a child will ever disclose an instance of abuse to you, it is important that you as a parent and concerned member of your community, know what to do if your child or another child discloses abuse to you:

- Don't panic or overreact.
- Don't blame the child for the incident, or for waiting to make the disclosure.
- Don't criticize the child or claim the child misunderstood the incident.
- Let the child know you believe what they are saying — children seldom lie about sexual abuse.
- Support the child and their decision to tell you.
- Let the child know they can continue to confide in you.
- Show appropriate physical affection if the child seems receptive, or show love and confidence through words and gestures.
- Avoid repeated interviews about the incident.
- If the child may be injured, seek medical attention.
- Consider the need for counseling and therapy.

4. Reporting Responsibility

A. Reporting Allegations of Misconduct

As a parent or member of Columbian Squires, you are a partner with Knights of Columbus and your local community in keeping all young people safe. If you observe or suspect child abuse, you should immediately report the incident.

You should follow this procedure to report suspected child abuse:

1. Immediately report any and all suspected child physical, emotional, sexual abuse, and neglect to law enforcement.
2. After reporting to local law enforcement, youth leaders must immediately notify Knights of Columbus via the **Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Hotline** directly at: **1-844-KOFC-SAFE (1-844-563-2723)**
3. If the alleged perpetrator is a member of the clergy, diocesan personnel or frequent volunteer in your parish, you should also contact the Director of Safe Environments for your diocese.

B. Contact Information for Reporting Agencies

In addition to local law enforcement, parents and children are strongly encouraged to contact a child protection agency in the case of suspected child abuse. These agencies can connect you with resources for medical treatment, abuse survivor networks, and litigation support. Such agencies include:

United States, U.S. Territories, Canada

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: 1-800-843-5678

Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-422-4453

Mexico

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: 001-800-843-5678

Philippines

Child Health and Intervention and Protective Service: +632-734-4216

World Wide

Cyber Tipline online reporting: www.cybertipline.com

Appendix A: Further Reading

After reading through this handbook, you may want to learn more about maintaining a safe environment for youth participating in Knights of Columbus programs. Below are some resources that complement the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program and can help you understand how to strengthen your parish community and protect youth as they grow in God's love.

From the Church

The Vatican's collection of papal documents on the family offers spiritual and practical guidance for those wishing to educate themselves and their children on the body, marriage, familial relationships and human sexuality. Public access to these documents is available at:

http://www.vatican.va/themes/famiglia_test/santopadre_en.htm

Useful Web Pages:

***Familiaris Consortio* (St. John Paul II)**

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_19811122_familiaris-consortio_en.html

***Letter to Families* (St. John Paul II)**

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/letters/documents/hf_jp-ii_let_02021994_families_en.html

***Lumen Fidei* (Pope Francis)**

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20130629_enciclica-lumen-fidei.html

From The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has devoted a special section of its website to child and youth protection. Access to research on child abuse and youth protection, best practices for prevention and detection, and the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* is available at:

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/index.cfm>

The National Catholic Risk Retention Group, Inc. has created its own safe environment training program for the Church, *VIRTUS*, that is in use today by many local dioceses. Resources for parents, educators and children, as well as online training, can be accessed at: **www.virtus.org**

The Arlington Diocese, under the leadership of Bishop Paul S. Loverde, has made education about human sexuality and the threats posed to the family and youth today its mission. Many good resources for practical Catholics can be found at: **<http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/>**

Useful Web Pages:

Catholic Parenting Resources

<http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/purity/parents.aspx>

Bought with a Price: Every Man's Duty to Protect Himself and his Family from A Pornographic Culture (Pastoral Letter from Bishop Loverde)

http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/uploadedFiles/Library/docs/Communications/Letters_from_Bishop_Loverde/Bought_with_a_Price.pdf

From the Knights of Columbus

Fathers for Good is a web-based initiative of Knights of Columbus that supports parents as they raise their children in the Catholic faith. Articles addressing the challenges of child-rearing in today's world and tools for strengthening the family can be found here: www.fathersforgood.org

Useful Web Pages:

Digital Vigilance for Parents

http://www.fathersforgood.org/ffg/en/big_four/digital_vigilance.html

Protecting Children from Abuse

http://www.fathersforgood.org/ffg/en/big_four/protecting_children.html

Warning Kids about Porn

http://www.fathersforgood.org/ffg/en/big_four/protect_them.html

Catholic Information Service was started by Knights of Columbus in 1948 to provide low-cost Catholic publications for evangelization and education. Literature on human sexuality, the family and the challenges Catholics face in today's world are available here: www.kofc.org/cis

Useful Web Pages:

The Family in the Modern World

<http://www.kofc.org/un/en/resources/cis/cis318.pdf>

In the Image of Love: Marriage, the Family and the New Evangelization

<http://www.kofc.org/un/en/resources/cis/cis407.pdf>

Blessed are the Pure in Heart: A Pastoral Letter on the Dignity of the Human Person and the Dangers of Pornography

<http://www.kofc.org/un/en/resources/cis/cis323.pdf>

From Youth Serving Organizations

Boy Scouts of America is a national leader in youth protection policy and training. Its website offers printer-friendly resources for parents and their children, a comprehensive Internet-safety program, and web-based training, all of which is available regardless of an affiliation with the Boy Scouts of America. Find it all here:

<http://www.scouting.org/Training/youthprotection.aspx>

Darkness to Light is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending child sexual abuse in the United States. In addition to providing support for other youth-serving organizations, Darkness to Light offers awareness training for parents and individuals and resources for starting initiatives in the local community. These tools can be accessed at:

<http://www.d2l.org/site/c.4dICIJOkGcISE/b.6069275/k.31EB/Prevention.htm>

Childhelp offers social services to survivors of child abuse and their families in the United States, U.S. territories and Canada through their child abuse hotline. Parents, educators and youth can also join a local chapter of Childhelp to empower their community against child abuse. Resources can be found at: www.childhelp.org

From Government Agencies

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has drafted a handbook specifically for youth-serving organizations to help prevent and respond to child sexual abuse. This, and other helpful resources, can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childmaltreatment/index.html>

The Children's Bureau, a branch of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, offers information on state- and federal-run prevention programs, social services for survivors of child abuse, and reporting systems dedicated to child physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect. Access these resources at:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/focus-areas/child-abuse-neglect>

The National Institute of Justice has compiled resources for survivors of child abuse who are taking legal action against perpetrators, as well as research on the effects of child abuse and best practices for communities. Find these important resources at: <http://www.nij.gov/topics/crime/child-abuse/pages/welcome.aspx>

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Notes

Sub Tuum Præsidium

We Fly to Thy Protection

We fly to thy protection,
O holy Mother of God;
Despise not our petitions
In our necessities,
But deliver us always
From all dangers,
O glorious and Blessed Virgin.

Amen.



*Immaculate Conception, Sister Marie de l'Eucharistie
Notre-Dame de Québec Cathedral-Basilica*



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