



Criminal History Background Checks

Criminal background checks are required before the first day of service by all clergy and employees. Same is required of volunteers who encounter minors as part of their service, and all parish ushers. Every five years, the background check is re-run. All checks except for school teachers are done through Sterling or Selection.com. School teachers are fingerprinted as part of the NJ DOE process and are valid as long as the person is an NJ school teacher.

Training

Adults: In person *Virtus Protecting God's Children* workshop is required in the first 30 days of service by all clergy and employees. Same is required for volunteers who encounter minors as part of their service, and all parish ushers. Every five years, the training must be updated, either with another in-person class, or via a monthly and annual commitment.

Children: Catholic school children in grades K-12 are taught each year in how to keep themselves safe. Training is done through *Virtus Empowering God's Children*, or the RCL Benziger Family Life Program, or the Loyola Press *Growing With God: Safe and Sacred* program. Teaching Guidelines for Parents are available on the Archdiocesan website for the Department for the Protection of the Faithful. Students in parish faith formation programs in Grades K-8 are also required to take two of these lessons each year.

Policies

Policies on Professional and Ministerial Conduct are available on the Archdiocesan website for the Department for the Protection of the Faithful.

Survivor Assistance / Reporting Abuse

To report abuse, contact Gina Criscuolo, Archdiocesan Coordinator of the Office of Accompaniment at (201)407-3256

Division of Child Protection and Permanency (formerly DYFS)

To report suspected child abuse (877) 652-2873 (877-NJ-ABUSE)

Department for the Protection of the Faithful

Karen Clark, Executive Director, karen.clark@rcan.org (973) 497-4254

Safe Environment Compliance Team: sect@rcan.org

Questions? Contact your local safe environment coordinator or check out the diocesan website at www.rcan.org and click on Safe Environment.