

A Clarification of Diocesan Policy regarding Safe Environment Requirements

The Diocese of Greensburg works to ensure that the policy and procedure for Safe Environment requirements are consistently followed by all Diocesan entities. The Diocesan policy provides for the highest level of protection for children, youth and vulnerable adults who are a member of, or may participate in activities of, the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Parishes, and Schools.

All employees, all volunteers, and all members of parish or school organizations or affiliated organizations are required to comply with the policy as outlined here.

Because Diocesan facilities and activities are open and welcoming environments to individuals in all age groups, distinctions regarding the age of group members using parish facilities are not to be used as a determinant in whether clearance and training requirements must be complied with. All volunteers and all individuals who participate as a member of an organization that meets on/in parish property must comply with these requirements.

Requirements for all Employees

Once

- Completion of PA Mandated Reporter Training (University of Pittsburgh Training)
- Review and acknowledgement of Diocese of Greensburg Pastoral Code of Conduct

Every Five Years

- Virtus – Protection of Gods Children Training
- Pennsylvania Child Abuse Clearance
- Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Clearance
- FBI Fingerprint Criminal History Clearance

All requirements must be met prior to the start of employment.

Failure to complete Virtus update training or to update clearances as required will result in an employee being placed on unpaid leave until the update requirements are met.

Requirements for all Volunteers and all Members of Parish Organizations*

Once

- Completion of PA Mandated Reporter Training (University of Pittsburgh Training or equivalent**)
- Review and acknowledgement of Diocese of Greensburg Pastoral Code of Conduct

Every Five Years

- Virtus – Protection of Gods Children Training
- Pennsylvania Child Abuse Clearance
- Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Clearance
- FBI Fingerprint Criminal History Clearance***

*Parish Organization is defined as any organization that operates under the umbrella of the parish or is affiliated with the parish and meets on parish property

**Equivalent training is determined by the Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator

***The approved Affidavit may be used for volunteers who began service prior to January 1, 2025, and who have been a continuous resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the last ten years or more as of the date the Affidavit is completed.

Volunteers who began service on January 1, 2025, or later, must initially complete the FBI Fingerprint Criminal History Clearance. In subsequent five-year intervals, a volunteer who initially completed the FBI Fingerprint Criminal History Clearance may complete the Affidavit if they have been a continuous resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the last ten years or more as of the date the Affidavit is completed.

All requirements must be met prior to the start of volunteer service or attendance at meetings of parish organization.

A volunteer or member of a parish organization who fails to complete Virtus update training or to update clearances as required may be provided with no more than 30 days to provide evidence of updated training or clearances. Following the 30-day period the volunteer or organization member should be advised they are not permitted to continue in the volunteer or membership role until the update requirements have been met.

Requirements for all Contractors/Vendors

Contractors/vendors who perform work on parish property, regardless of when the work is performed, must either provide a Vendor Acknowledgement of Compliance Form to the parish/school or must provide copies of the following clearances for all vendor employees/representatives who will be performing work on parish/school property.

- Pennsylvania Child Abuse Clearance
- Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Clearance
- FBI Fingerprint Criminal History Clearance