



Romanian Catholic Diocese of Canton

Godly Relationships Romanian Catholic Diocese of Canton Child Safety and Protection Education – Child and Parent

Preparation for Teaching:

1. Schedule and invite parent/caregiver and children to 30-minute child protection program
2. Make handouts (page 3 for children and pages 4-5 for parents/caregivers)
3. Review Handouts below:
 - a. Godly Relationships – Child
 - b. Godly Relationships – Parent/Caregiver
4. Provide handouts attendees (page 3 for children and pages 4-5 for parents/caregivers)
5. Discuss handouts key areas for each section
6. Answer questions
7. Discuss or show where your Child/Youth Reporting sign is located at your parish
8. Maintain record of attendees with sign-in sheet
9. Follow-up as needed with attendees


Opt-Out Form

1. If parents do not want their children going through the Godly Relationships education program, they must complete the “opt-out” form and return to the Parish. See page 6 of this packet.
2. All parishes must keep all completed opt-out forms.

Approved: 11/30/2016 by Most Rev. John Michael Botean.



Godly Relationships Child

We want our churches to be a place you feel safe, loved and are able to experience and grow in God. We are committed to providing a safe environment to help you grow spiritually. Here are some Safety Keys.

Know the Rules for Adult/Child Interactions

- Avoid being alone; always have a buddy
- Don't accept expensive gifts
- No alcohol, drugs or tobacco
- Keep clear limits; you are allowed to say no if you feel uncomfortable
- Tell a trusted adult or call "911" if you or a friend are being hurt or abused
- Don't hurt, tease or bully others
- Practice good communication
- Be patient
- Treat everyone with respect
- Show courtesy, dignity, care



Emergency Call 911

Not an Emergency:
Tell a Trusted Adult if you are Hurt or Abused
or
Call Our Diocese 330-493-9355

When to Say "NO" and then Tell Trusted Adult or call 911

- If you are being hurt
- If a person say they will hurt, make you feel discomfort or leave you
- If you are asked or forced to keep secrets
- If this person doesn't listen to you when you say no or you don't like what they are doing
- If they use put downs to make you feel bad
- If you feel unsafe
- If they single you out with gifts, special privileges or attention
- If a person wants to be alone with only you
- If they want to see or touch private parts of your body or ask you to touch or look at their private parts
- If someone asks you to break the rules

Online Safety

- Do not give out name, home address, school name, telephone number or any information through any electronic device (phone, computer, etc)
- Do not give out a picture of yourself. Ask a parent or trusted adult
- Do not write to someone who has made you feel uncomfortable or scared
- Do not meet anyone or have them visit you without the permission of your parents/caregiver
- Tell a trusted adult/parent right away if you read or see anything that makes your feel uncomfortable
- People online may not be who they say they are

(The FBI Website: <https://archives.fbi.gov/archives/fun-games/kids/kids-safety>)



Godly Relationships Parent/Caregiver

Ways to Keep Your Child Safe

- Know where your child is
- Know who your child is with
- Be aware of adults who single out your child with attention, gifts or special privileges
- Be sensitive to changes in your child's attitude or behavior
- Teach your child about right relationships
- Listen to your child
- Practice basic safety skills
- Talk to your child about when to say "No" to an adult.
- Give your child your unconditional love and attention
- Be involved in your child's activities
- Explain the difference between a surprise and a secret

Signs of A Safe Program for Children and Youth

- Screening of staff/volunteers
- Adults trained in safe environment
- Strategies and signs of abuse
- Code of conduct is enforced
- Open communication between parents and staff/staff and children/children and parents
- Parents always welcome.
- Children educated in right relationships and what to do if a relationship isn't right
- Treat all children with dignity and respect
- Clear rules and expectations consistent reinforcement/consequences
- Adequate supervision of youth; team approach, accountability no 1 on 1 isolation
- All abuse is reported

How to Raise Children to Resist Violence

- Give your children consistent love and attention
- Shield your children from too much violence in the media
- Help your child stand up against violence.
- Keep violence out of your home
- Show your children appropriate behaviors by the way you act
- Be consistent about rules and discipline
- Make sure your children are supervised



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Online Safety

Areas for online safety include; computers, mobile phones, socializing online, virtual worlds and texting.

Talk early and often to your children. As soon as your child uses an electronic device; computer, cell phone or mobile device it is time to talk. Create an open and honest environment. Be supportive. Communicate your values. When your kids begin socializing online, you may want to talk to them about certain risks:

- Inappropriate conduct: The online world can feel anonymous. Kids sometimes forget that they are still accountable for their actions.
- Inappropriate contact: Some people online have bad intentions, including bullies, predators, hackers, and scammers.
- Inappropriate content: You may be concerned that your kids could find pornography, violence, or hate speech online. Talk with your kids and consider placing internet restrictions. Keep the computer in a public location in your home. Interact with them on the computer often. (Federal Trade Commission Consumer Information: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0006-talk-your-kids>)

Free On-line Internet Safety Resources

1. 4NetSafety - <https://www.sprint.com/4netsafety/about.html>
Materials, posters, handouts, safety pledges and activity cards for different age groups covering internet safety topics such as cyberbullying, sexting, social networking
2. Tip sheets - <http://www.netsmart.org/TipSheets>
3. Google Safety Center tools - <http://www.google.com/safetycenter/tools>
4. Online Safety - <https://kids.usa.gov/online-safety/index.shtml>



Bullying

Some signs that a Child is Being Bullied:

- Unexplainable injuries
- Lost or destroyed clothing, books, electronics, or jewelry
- Frequent headaches or stomach aches, feeling sick or faking illness
- Changes in eating habits, like suddenly skipping meals or binge eating. Kids may come home from school hungry because they did not eat lunch.
- Difficulty sleeping or frequent nightmares
- Declining grades, loss of interest in schoolwork, or not wanting to go to school
- Sudden loss of friends or avoidance of social situations
- Feelings of helplessness or decreased self esteem
- Self-destructive behaviors such as running away from home, harming themselves, or talking about suicide

Signs a Child is Bullying Others:

- Get into physical or verbal fights
- Have friends who bully others
- Are increasingly aggressive
- Get sent to the principal's office or to detention frequently
- Have unexplained extra money or new belongings
- Blame others for their problems
- Don't accept responsibility for their actions
- Are competitive and worry about their reputation or popularity



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"Opt-out" Child/Youth Protection Form

Any program sponsored by the Church that educates children on issues related to human sexuality must include an "opt-out" provision. The Church has always affirmed that parents have the duty and the right to be the first and the principle educators for their children. The role of the Church is to assist and compliment the work of parents.

If you wish to opt your child out of the Church-sponsored child sexual abuse prevention program please complete this form.

PLEASE NOTE: You do not need to return this form unless you are requesting your child NOT attend the Church-sponsored education program.

Child's Name:

Parish:

**Name of Parent/Caregiver:
(print)**

Parent/Caregiver Signature:

Date:

Romanian Catholic Diocese of Canton

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