

## CHILD ABUSE AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

It is the policy of the Diocese of Salt Lake City that child abuse, including sexual abuse of minors, by persons employed by or volunteering services within the diocese is contrary to Christian principles and will not be tolerated. All personnel and volunteers within the diocese must comply with applicable state and local laws regarding incidents of actual or suspected child abuse, and with the procedures outlined in its published Safe Environment Program. Further, they are to be made familiar with the policies as prescribed by the diocese. The Diocese of Salt Lake City establishes these procedures for the following reasons:

- To guarantee an effective response to allegations of child abuse
- To ensure the accountability of our procedures.
- To promote healing and reconciliation with victims/survivors of child abuse.
- To educate clergy, religious, administrators, staff and volunteers of the diocese and its parishes, institutions and entities so that they will be acquainted with the policy and its requirements.

The Diocesan Safe Environment Program effort includes:

- Promulgation of , education in and compliance with the Diocesan Safe Environment Program
- Guidelines for Working with Children
- The Diocesan Code of Ethical Standards and Ethical Standards in Professional Relationships
- The Diocesan Code of Conduct for Minors.

The essential elements of the Safe Environment endeavor are:

- Promulgation of , education in and compliance with the Diocesan Safe Environment Program
- The appointment of a local Director for Safe Environment at each parish, school, diocesan and other agency as appropriate
- Screening of all Church personnel and volunteers who work with children or young people on a regular basis. This includes:
  - Disclosure Statements
  - Background Checks
  - Interviews
  - Completion of annual Safe Environment Compliance and Training Reports
- Background Checks
- Training for all groups as appropriate
- Supervision
- Mandatory reporting of child abuse
- Determination of fitness for ministry
- Maintenance of an environment that insures a safe environment for children and young people.
- Provision for an appropriate outreach of pastoral care for survivors of abuse and their families, as well as for the accused.