

Child Protection and Safety Program

Children are the most precious resource of the family and the Church. The greatest care must always be taken when the safety of children is involved. The Diocese of Arlington is committed to providing a safe environment to all children entrusted to our care and assisting each child to grow in grace and wisdom. The Office of Child Protection & Safety provides several programs including:

- A comprehensive training program for employees, volunteers, parents and children
- Application procedures for persons working with children, including background checks
- Monitoring of child and youth activities to ensure that all contact with young people is appropriate
- Outreach and support for victims of child abuse and their families

At St. Raymond's, in support of these programs and the policies that accompany them, we work to see that all applicable persons are fully compliant with the Child Protection Policies of the Arlington Diocese.

Who's Required to be Fully Compliant within the Parish?

- All **employees** are required to be fully compliant, regardless of their potential contact with children or the number of hours they work.
- All **volunteers with substantial contact** with our youth are required to be fully compliant. **Substantial Contact** is contact that is not incidental OR where their service is such that it is reasonable to think that the person may at some time have contact with our children outside the sight or hearing of other responsible adults.

What's Required for Compliance?

1. Completion of an online background check application (fingerprinting is required for employees). To volunteer for one of the Parish ministries, please contact the ministry lead to introduce yourself and share your interest in volunteering. The ministry lead will request that the Parish Liaison for Child Protection and Safety contact you. Completion of background checks by the Arlington Diocese is a prerequisite of volunteer work involving substantial contact with our youth.

2. Attendance at a Virtus training seminar entitled: "Protecting God's Children." Seminars are generally held in the evenings and on Saturday mornings, lasting approximately four hours. Arriving on time and staying until the end of the training is mandatory. All participants must register on-line and attend the entirety of the seminar to receive credit. Registration for a Virtus seminar is only available after the background application has been submitted.

Contact the Parish Liaison at ChildProtection@straymonds.org for questions or to find out if you are already compliant within the Diocese. Visit the Arlington Diocese web page on Child protection and Safety for further information: <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Child-Protection/VIRTUS/>