

Parish Religious Education

Child Safety Training Instructions.

Parishes need to follow the steps below in order for their Religious Education program to be in compliance with the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children.

Each parish will need to:

- Present Lesson One of the Virtus Teaching Touching Safety Program to 1st and 4th graders¹. The lesson includes a DVD and simple to follow lesson plans for age appropriate activities and discussions. The lesson takes approximately 45 minutes and must be presented before Easter each school year. 4th graders will receive Lesson #2, and 1st graders will receive Lesson #1
- Communicate about the lesson with all 1st and 4th grade parents. This can be done via letter (see “Religious Education Teaching Touching Safety Overview”) or present an onsite meeting/training of the parents.
- Allow Parents to request that their child(ren) not participate in the Teaching Touching Safety training. See attached Opt Out Form. Send this form to the parents with the Teaching Touching Safety Overview. The Opt Out form is the only paperwork that needs a parent’s signature. To comply with USCCB audit requirements, these forms must be kept on file at the parish with other Child Protection Files.
- Make arrangements for children who are considered “opt outs” to go to another classroom while the Teaching Touching Safety training is being conducted.
- Complete the Diocesan Teaching Touching Safety report form after the lesson has been presented indicating how many students were trained, absent and opted out. The form is retained on file at the parish and a copy must be sent to the Diocesan Child Protection Office so the USCCB audit documents can be completed.
- All materials can be found at <https://chancery.rcdop.org/child-protection>

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¹ Lesson #1 covers “Touching Safety Rules”. There are two versions of the same topic that are age appropriate for grades 1 and 4, respectively.