



Child Protection Policies for Catholic Schools: Reporting Child Abuse and Sexual Conduct; Hiring; Training

Follow-up Questions

Following are responses to questions some principals asked after the recent meetings on child protection policies in compliance with ORS 339-370 to 339.400.

Question 1. Appendix D. Would it be advisable to give this document to all employees this year?

Answer: Yes, since some of the information in Appendix D may be new to employees. The policies document should assist you in presenting this information to your staff. Going forward, Appendix D should be given to all new hires with other orientation information.

Question 2. Should the principal distribute the entire document: *Child Protection Policies for Catholic Schools: Reporting Child Abuse and Sexual Conduct; Hiring; Training*, to all staff?

Answer: It is not necessary for the principal to distribute the entire policy to staff, although the principal may choose to do so. The principal certainly needs to present some of the information in these policies to school employees. The key is to discuss and present sufficient information on these policies to your staff so that they know how to proceed if they suspect child abuse or sexual conduct occurring with students. The principal may want to post the policy in the staff room.

Question 3. Where should the Child Abuse and Sexual Conduct poster be posted in the school?

Answer. Although the law is not specific about where it is to be posted, the law primarily pertains to employees so the poster needs to be placed where employees will see it and it will not be taken down. You might place it where you have other required postings for employees.

Question 4. In regards to the child abuse prevention training for parents, can this training be available online?

Answer. The law does not state how the training for parents must be made available, only that the subject relate to the prevention, identification and reporting of child abuse and sexual conduct. Currently the parent training that is provided through the Archdiocese of Portland is the *Called to Protect for Parents and Families* presentation using the DVD and presentation. Parents do not have access to this training online unless a parent is an employee or volunteer of the school or a nearby

parish. Therefore, the Archdiocesan program does not currently have a program for parent training online.

Question 5. Can schools in a certain area group together to provide the parent training?

Answer. The law requires only that training be made available and would not preclude schools in the same area jointly sponsoring a program. The practical question, however, is whether parents in one school will go to another school to attend this training.

What schools in an area might do is coordinate the dates of their parent training with the schools and parishes of their area. In advertising the training for parents at your school you might share the dates of other locations where the training is being offered so that if the parents have a scheduling conflict and wants to attend the training, they can attend at another location.

As always be sure you document the date and time and the number of people who attend the parent training even if very few attend the training.