

ST. JOHN THE BELOVED PARISH  
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**FOR THE SAKE OF GOD'S CHILDREN**  
BACKGROUND CLEARANCES  
VOLUNTEER COVENANTS  
ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY—AUP  
RESOURCE INFORMATION

All volunteers for St. John the Beloved Parish must have a current **Background Clearance** on file as well as a signed **Volunteer Covenant** and an **Acceptable Use of Technology (AUP) Signature Page**. For parents that have students enrolled in St. John the Beloved School, the AUP and Volunteer Covenant is signed electronically thru your on-line update form thru Power School Update. For Background Clearances: all adults (18 and over) who are engaged with young people and volunteer for activities must have a Hyden Background Screening performed prior to participating in these activities. These activities include: chaperones for field trips; lunch duty volunteers; computer, library, nurse's room, lunch preparation, field day, sports and any other job where you will be working with children. There is an on-line application process for obtaining a criminal background clearance. This background application will require an **"entry code"**. **If you need to apply for a Background Clearance or you need to renew your clearance**, please contact Marie Malatesta, SJB Parish Compliance Coordinator of Safe Environments at 999-0211 ext. 109. Once the investigation is completed a copy of the report will be sent to the Director of Safe Environments at the Diocese of Wilmington and a copy will be sent to you for your personal record. Please do not forward a copy to the School or Mrs. Malatesta. The Director of Safe Environments will send a copy of the clearance to the schools and parishes. **Background checks** are good for five (5) years from the date of clearance. You will be notified at least two months in advance when your background clearance will expire. In addition, a **Volunteer Covenant** and an **Acceptable Use of Technology (AUP) Signature Page** must be signed each year if you plan to participate in the above mentioned activities. All of these documents are kept on file. Please visit the Diocesan Website at [www.cdow.org](http://www.cdow.org) to view all of this information **AND video** on **'FOR THE SAKE OF GOD'S CHILDREN'**. If you need additional information please contact Marie Malatesta (Parish Compliance Coordinator) at 999-0211 ext. 109.

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## **FOR THE SAKE OF GOD'S CHILDREN**

RESOURCE INFORMATION for PARENTS AND GUARDIANS FROM THE DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON—For any additional information contact the Office of Safe Environments at (302) 295-0668.

### **TYPES OF CHILD ABUSE**

**Physical Abuse** is any non-accidental physical injury to a child caused by an adult which results in or threatens serious injury. Often adults who physically abuse children do not intend to seriously injure the children but get carried away by anger and frustration in their own lives.

**Neglect** is the failure of a parent or guardian to provide a child with adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, education or supervision. Neglect is a chronic problem often resulting, not from poverty, but from lack of knowledge as to the proper care required by children.

**Sexual Abuse** is any physical contact with a child by an adult or older child in a position of power over the child. Usually child sexual abuse is not violent and the child knows the abuser.

**Emotional Abuse** is an important factor in all forms of child abuse. To be hurt so much by someone who should care and protect is very damaging to the emotional development of a child. Adults who do not physically harm a child may cause emotional harm by using words which threaten, harshly criticize, ridicule or harass.

### **SOME GUIDELINES WHEN YOU SUSPECT A CHILD IS EXPERIENCING SEXUAL ABUSE**

1. Keep calm. Never panic or over react.
2. Believe the child. Never doubt the child.
3. Reassure the child. Never blame the child.
4. Listen to and answer the child's questions.
5. Never pressure the child to talk about or avoid talking about the abuse.
6. Never confront the offender.
7. Respect the child's privacy. Never discuss the abuse in front of inappropriate other parties.

### **REPORT THE ABUSE IMMEDIATELY TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES.**

#### **DELAWARE: Division of Family Services**

Hot line number: 1-800-292-9582

**MARYLAND:** Department of Social Services in the Maryland County where the alleged victim resides or if different, where the abuse is alleged to have occurred.

Hot line number: 1-800-492-0618