Youth Safety Report

Archdiocesan District Clergy Laity

Church of the Holy Resurrection – Brookville, NY

April 6, 2024
The Archdiocese Youth Safety Policies were approved by the 2018 Clergy-Laity Congress with a goal of 100% compliance in 2019.

The program is intended to:
- Provide a safe and secure environment for all of our youth
- Mitigate insurance and legal risks for our parishes.

It is critical that all Youth Workers are registered and compliant in our Youth Safety platform.
- This is not optional.
- Background checks must be completed every two years
- Training must be completed every year

The program is managed via a tiered structure:
- Archdiocese Department of Youth Safety
- Metropolis Youth Safety Administrators (MYSAs)
- Parish Youth Safety Administrators (PYSAs)
Youth Safety Metrics for the Archdiocesan District (as of March 28th)

- **Youth Workers**
  - 1,840 Youth Workers have registered, of whom 1,239 are fully compliant.
  - 63 parishes have Youth Workers registered.
  - 49 PYSAs are registered, of whom 34 are fully compliant.

- **Parish Council**
  - 522 Parish Council members have registered, of whom 371 are fully compliant.
  - That represents an average of fewer than six per parish.
What do we need to do?

- **Make sure all Youth Workers are compliant**
- **All parishes must have Youth Safety Administrators (PYSA's)**
  - The PYSA is critical to ensuring the success of Youth Safety compliance at each parish.
  - Only 49 are currently registered.
- **Each parish must be vigilant regarding expired training**
  - Over 500 training records will expire in the next three months.
  - All will receive automated reminders, but PYSA’s should review and send additional prompts.
- **Parish Council members must all complete background checks**
  - Only 53 parishes have any compliant PC members.
  - Only 25 parishes have more than five compliant PC members.
  - *Training is not required for PC compliance but is recommended as a Best Practice.*

In the coming months we will be implementing strict measures to ensure compliance with these policies. Avoid these penalties by complying now.
Additional Resources

- Visit the Youth Safety Booth today with any questions
- Register online at: [https://youthsafetyplatform.goarch.org](https://youthsafetyplatform.goarch.org)
- District Contacts:
  - District Youth Safety Administrator: Jim Gabriel ([jgabriel@goarch.org](mailto:jgabriel@goarch.org))
  - Youth & Young Adult Ministries Director: Dino Pantelias ([dino@goarch.org](mailto:dino@goarch.org))
- Archdiocese Contact:
  - Department of Youth Safety: Rhea Ballas ([youthsafety@goarch.org](mailto:youthsafety@goarch.org))

Register *every year*  Screen *every two years*  Train *every year*
Register here: youthsafetyplatform.goarch.org

NOTE: Please allow at least 30 minutes to complete the process before exiting. If you do not have the time, wait until you do to begin. If you already completed the process after 9/1/2022, log in to your existing account.

REGISTER (Register once and re-register every year)

☐ Create an account by registering at the link above.
☐ You will be responsible for the $29 fee for the background check if your parish does not cover the cost.
☐ When you register, make sure you select the Archdiocesan District and Home Parish and City as your Primary location. Your primary Role: See list and then add any other roles you hold in the parish.
☐ Under Title: Describe your position. (Sunday School Teacher, Parish Council Member, GOYA Advisor, etc.)
☐ You will complete the general information, Archdiocese Code of Conduct, Registration & Reference questions, and then will be directed to complete your background check.

SCREEN (Every two years)

☐ When you are directed to the Sterling Volunteers site to complete your background check, you will see the screen (right) with your email address.
☐ You MUST create a new password as this is a different site.
☐ Agree to the terms and create an account. (If you have been to this site before, just log in.)
☐ You will verify your legal name, birthdate, and Social Security number.
☐ You must include residences/addresses for at least the last seven years with no gaps between dates.
☐ This portion will take you approximately ten minutes to complete.
☐ Note: Archdiocesan, District/Metropolis, Parish Council Members are required to complete a background check every two years as well.

TRAIN (Every year)

☐ Once your background check has been completed, go back to the youthsafetyplatform.goarch.org site where you will be prompted to complete training if due. Training is completed every year with a different course assigned each year. (If you don’t see the training lesson, log out and then go back in.)
☐ Best Practice would be for all Council Members to complete the training as well, but it is not required unless your District/Metropolis or Parish has chosen to make it mandatory.
☐ If you serve as a Youth Worker in addition to being on a Council, then you are required to complete the training.
☐ The training will take approximately one hour.

Sterling Volunteers Support Team, specifically for Greek Orthodox Parishes and Ministries available Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 6:00 pm ET. Phone: 855.326.1860, select Option 1 and enter 6548. Or you may email for support: goa@sterlingvolunteers.com and cc: youthsafety@goarch.org.

You may also contact our District Youth Safety Administrator, Archon James Gabriel, jgabriel@goarch.org for assistance. Please cc: youthsafety@goarch.org.