

## **Shield the Vulnerable Safe Environment for Children Program**

At Catholic parishes and schools across the country, employees, volunteers, educators, parents and children are participating in special training programs.

The training is mandated by the 2002 Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People issued by the United States Catholic Bishops. The Charter reaffirms the Catholic Bishops' deep commitment to creating a safe environment for all God's children.

### **About the Training**

In response to the Safe Environment initiative, Shield the Vulnerable created “Recognize, Report & Prevent Child Abuse,” an individualized, interactive online course. No special hardware, software or training necessary. Just a PC or Mac and Internet access. **The course takes 1 to 1.5 hours** and you can pause and return anytime to the same place and finish the course. Just remember your Login-ID and password.

### **How to take the online course:**

- **Go To: [shieldthevulnerable.org](http://shieldthevulnerable.org)**
- **Click “1<sup>st</sup> Time Diocese Signup” tab**
- **Click “Adult Courses” radio (round) button**
- **Select your diocese from the list of dioceses.**
- **Complete the Registration:**
  - User/Login Tab:** fill in the requested information and create your own login. Only one person can be named on the registration.
  - Diocesan Affiliation Tab:** select who you are employee, volunteer or parent.
  - Occupation Tab:** whatever your diocesan affiliation you MUSY identify whether you're mandatory or ethical reporter.
  - Background Check Tab:** if your diocese requires a background check, this tab will appear.
  - Summary Tab:** review your registration and if correct and you “Accept” the license, click “Confirm Registration”.
- **Click “Start” button on My Course page.**
- **Acknowledge Diocesan Policies and print your Certificate of Completion.**

### **What Adults Will Learn**

1. What are the different types of abuse and neglect
2. How to recognize the signs of abuse and neglect
3. How to protect a child who is a victim of abuse
4. What constitutes “reasonable suspicion”
5. When and how to make a report under state law
6. Potential penalties for not reporting
7. What are the Diocesan standards of conduct

The online course will challenge and engage adults to help them learn, build and retain valuable skills to save children from abuse and neglect. Besides the text-based teaching, the course uses interactive techniques and role-play around real-world situations.

**For Help:** Please call your Diocesan Safe Environment office or Shield the Vulnerable 800-652-9546