

Three Hour Workshops!

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When people first learn that the Archdiocese of Santa Fe requires all paid staff and volunteers working with, or in close proximity to minors or in a supervisory position of persons working with minors to participate in a three-hour workshop they say “three hours?”!

In 1990, the first Sexual Abuse Prevention workshop was presented. Since then, the workshops have been provided by designated trained therapists (Counselors). Over the years the presentations have been reviewed, expanded and updated. Participants are given the opportunity to learn the law regarding sexual abuse of minors, how to detect abuse, how and to whom to report. Since the workshops are presented by professionals, those in attendance have the opportunity to raise questions and seek clarification as needed. The Archdiocesan policy relating to sexual misconduct and harassment is also presented. Each person receives a copy of the policy at the end of the session.

Participant names are kept in a data base at the Catholic Center. All persons as noted above who work with children are required to participate in an Archdiocesan workshop within the first three months of employment. Volunteers are recommended to participate before offering their services.

Sometimes people ask if a workshop taken at another location or for another organization will suffice. While other workshops are usually designed for a specific purpose, so too is the Archdiocesan program. Therefore, participation in other program’s does not suffice. It is necessary that participation in the Archdiocesan workshops can be verified through a copy of a form presented at the end of the session which participants are to keep for future reference and from our data base.

The Archdiocese announces through its Web Page www.archdiocesasantafe.org, the **People of God**, Archdiocesan newspaper, mailings to principals and parishes, the schedule of workshops for each year. Additional workshops are arranged as needed according to specific guidelines. Participants are not required to pay a fee for the workshop. Registration is required to assure adequate space and necessary materials are available. Please NO walk ins! Call (505) 831-8158 to register. Workshops often fill quickly to avoid disappointment, register early.

Why is there such insistence on participation in these workshops? Because we are committed to comply with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth, approved by the Bishops’ and to consciously work toward a safe environment for all.