

Child protection protocols observed at  
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Baltimore

**PROCEDURES FOR ALL CHURCH PERSONNEL INCLUDING VOLUNTEERS**

St. Vincent's parish follows all protocols as set forth by the Archdiocese of Baltimore's [Office of Child and Youth Protection](#) for the protection of children.

The Archdiocese uses the VIRTUS online training and compliance management system. The training was customized to include Archdiocesan policies and Maryland law.

**All Church personnel**, including parish volunteers in any capacity (regardless of whether they work with children), are required to undertake this online training. The training helps by heightening awareness, increasing responsibility, and fostering a communal sense of attentiveness to the need to protect our children – the Church's most vulnerable members. All personnel are required to review and indicate full compliance with:

- [Code of Conduct for Church Personnel](#) and
- [A Statement of Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth.](#)

Also, all parish staff plus any volunteers who work with children or who could engage with children during their volunteer tasks must agree to a criminal history screening and submit names and contact information for three references, who are called.

Staff must additionally a) complete the [Maryland Child Protective Services Background Clearance](#) and b) be fingerprinted as a part of their criminal history screening.

Ms. Anne Gibson, St. Vincent's Director of Religious Education for Children, also serves as the **Screening Coordinator** for our parish child protection and safety training. She maintains records of staff and volunteers' completed mandatory training, ensuring all parish personnel remain in compliance with child safety requirements.

**REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

We comply with Maryland laws requiring reporting suspected child abuse to civil authorities. Under Maryland law any parish volunteer or staff person who has reason to believe a child has been subjected to abuse must report the suspected abuse to civil authorities (local law enforcement or local Department of Social Services Child Protective Services), even if the potential victim is now over 18 years old and even in cases where the alleged perpetrator is deceased.

If someone associated with the Church, including clergy, employees, or volunteers, is suspected of abuse, then the suspected abuse must also be reported to the Archdiocese's **Office of Child and Youth Protection: 410-547-5348** or the **Victims Assistance Line: 1-866-417-7469**. To report that a bishop has engaged in any sexual misconduct, including child sexual abuse, or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct: [reportbishopabuse.org](http://reportbishopabuse.org).