

Child Protection

All adults, age 18 or older, who seek to work or volunteer with or around children in any ministry or organization associated with St. John Vianney Parish, are subject to the child protection requirements of the Diocese of Metuchen.

Since requirements applicable to employees are discussed with candidates seeking employment, this article solely addresses the requirements applicable to volunteers.

Volunteer Application and Fee

Every volunteer for a ministry or organization must submit a hard copy Volunteer application. When a new volunteer approaches the person who leads the ministry or organization to indicate interest in volunteering, the application should be included with the information provided to the prospective volunteer.

The volunteer application is available [here](#).

Fee

As discussed below, one of the child protection requirements is a criminal background check. The parish paid nearly \$11,000 for criminal background checks last year. To help defray the cost for new volunteers, the parish is asking that every new volunteer pay \$25. This amount will greatly help with the costs for new criminal background checks as well as help ensure that people are serious about volunteering. Of course, if the fee would pose a hardship, please advise me or Fr. John.

If paying by check, please make the check payable to St. John Vianney Church and write background check in the memo.

The completed volunteer application and fee should be returned to the ministry or organization lead. The application and fee will then be given to me.

Virtus Account

Every volunteer must create a Virtus account through Virtus.org. Select the Diocese of Metuchen and St. John Vianney Parish or St. John Vianney School, depending on whether your volunteer activity will be associated with the parish or school.

Information to help you create the Virtus account is available [here](#).

With the volunteer application and fee, I will be able to associate the new volunteer with the appropriate ministry and/or organization.

Register to attend an upcoming **Protecting God's Children** training session. Training is offered here at St. John Vianney as well as at other locations throughout the Diocese. If you select and attend a session at a location other than St. John Vianney you must provide me with a copy of the training certificate received at the conclusion of the training session.

NOTE: Please do not authorize the background check until after you have submitted the volunteer application and paid the fee.

Criminal Background Check

After you have submitted the Volunteer application and paid the fee, and registered to attend a Protecting God's Children session, please return to the Virtus website. As I receive your application and fee I will issue a prompt for you to complete the criminal background check. The check is performed by a company named Selection.com. Please scroll through the pages carefully to be sure to check every box that requires a check. If a volunteer misses a question the authorization will be incomplete and must be started again.

Code of Pastoral Conduct

After you complete the authorization for the background check you will be prompted to read and then sign the Code of Pastoral Conduct.

Volunteer Application

The Virtus website has a volunteer application. It is a fillable document but unfortunately it is not saved to the website. Since a hard copy application will already have been supplied, you can skip the application on the website.

Protecting God's Children

From the website, register to attend a Protecting God's Children session. Multiple sessions are scheduled to be held at St. John Vianney. Sessions are also scheduled at other locations. If attending a session at a location other than St. John Vianney, you must supply me with a copy of the certificate received at the conclusion of the session.

Any questions?

Please contact me at ederosa@sjvs.net.

Thank you for your interest in volunteering and may God bless you!

Ellen DeRosa
Parish Coordinator of Child Protection