



# Diocese of Davenport

*Office of the Bishop*

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October 14, 2024

## Safe Environment

[This information is being sent to clergy, principals, C/DREs and Youth Ministers].

I want to express my gratitude to all of you for continuing to prioritize the safety of our children in our churches, schools, and wider communities. By providing this training for children as well as caring adults, we continue to empower all of our communities to be safer environments for God's children.

Safe environment training for adults use the CMG Connect program. We are continuing to offer safe environment training in parishes for minors through the VIRTUS program. Separate training has been incorporated into the Catholic school curriculum. The Diocesan Review Board has vetted these programs.

The safe environment program must continue to be a priority in parishes and schools. Therefore, we have set an October 31 deadline to complete safe environment training in parishes for minors through the VIRTUS program. The recording of the training can be done by the parish or school after this date. Please contact Colleen Darland with an alternative date if you cannot meet the October 31 deadline. The training must be done as soon as possible. It may be helpful to prioritize offering this program earlier in the year to avoid weather related delays in the winter or spring months.

A separate safe environment training program has been implemented in all Catholic schools. This program is conducted throughout the school year and recorded through the PowerSchool student information system. Students enrolled in Catholic schools are not required to complete the parish Virtus program.

There are four options offered this year to complete the training, including at home by parents. Details are available on the safe environment webpage: <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/for-local-secs> under "Safe Environment Training for Minors."

All staff and all volunteers working with children must complete safe environment training and background check at the time of their hire or before they begin volunteering. This includes coaches.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Dennis G. Walsh  
Bishop of Davenport