



Diocese of Columbus

Safe Environment Requirements

All current employees/volunteers should already have the appropriate criminal background report on file and have participated in a Protecting God's Children™ (PGC) training session. Any current employee/volunteer not in compliance must do so before they are permitted to continue their ministry with children/youth.

Criminal Background Checks for New Employees/Volunteers

New employees/volunteers will need to have a completed criminal background report on file at the parish/school by the first day of their ministry with children/youth. For those employees/volunteers who completed the FBI background investigation, the report must be "in process" before beginning their ministry with children/youth.

Protecting God's Children™ for New Employees/Volunteers

Although it is preferable for new employees/volunteers to have completed PGC prior to working with children/youth, they have a grace period of up to six-weeks to attend a Protecting God's Children™ session. If this grace period is needed, supervisors are to verify that the new employee/volunteer is pre-registered for a scheduled PGC session by the first day of their ministry with children/youth.

Short-Term Volunteers

Special attention should be made to help "short-term volunteers" receive the training in a timely manner that will properly prepare them for their service. Duration of service does not dictate whether a person needs to be in compliance. For example, if a person wishes to volunteer with children once per year, or even for a one-time event, he/she will need to have a criminal background investigation report on file and take Protecting God's Children™.

Employees/Volunteers Transferring from another Parish/School in the Diocese

If an employee/volunteer has served continuously (no break in service) at another diocesan parish/school, that person should request that their criminal background report be sent from the former parish/school directly to the new parish/school. For those who have had a significant break in employment/service, a new background check will need to be conducted. The new parish/school should notify the diocese to request that the PGC training record of the employee/volunteer be transferred.

For questions regarding a person's continuous service status, contact the former parish. For questions regarding whether a person has taken PGC, call the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry at 614-241-2656.