

Safe Environment FAQs

What should I do if a young person, or vulnerable adult, is in immediate danger of abuse?

Stop immediately and call 911.

What should I do if I suspect a young person, or vulnerable adult, is in danger of abuse or has been abused?

Please immediately contact Ohio Job and Family Services at 855-642-4453. Be sure to write down any case numbers they give you. After, contact your local Safe Environment Coordinator, Sunnie Johnson-Lain (513-345-4966), and provide any case numbers and reports you have received. If the suspected abuse is by a SVDP employee or volunteer, please contact Sunnie Johnson-Lain directly.

What should I do if a young person or vulnerable adult discloses abuse to me?

Firstly, do not promise to keep anything they tell you a secret. Be sure to listen attentively and try not to offer any advice or interrupt them. Inform them that you will have to report everything they told you, write down as much as you can remember after the conversation and then report to your local Safe Environment Coordinator, Sunnie Johnson-Lain (513-345-4966).

What happens after a report is made?

Civil authorities (e.g. child welfare or law enforcement) will stream the report to the appropriate agency. Then someone from child or adult protective services will interview the young person or adult and any individuals close to the situation. They will then determine if the person is being abused or at risk of abuse. The case will then be transferred to social services, or to juvenile, family or criminal court. SVDP Cincinnati will fully and openly cooperate with child and adult protection services.

How else does SVDP Cincinnati help protect young people?

We also require all young people and parents to sign a waiver, making them aware of the environment and risks they/their child will be exposed to. We also make sure all young people who volunteer with us are aware of our Safe Environment procedures and who to tell should they have any concerns.

I would like to work/volunteer with young people, how can I get trained?

If you would like to get SafeParish trained, then please contact Alec Jewell at ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org

Does SVDP Cincinnati have a Safe Environment Policy?

Yes! If you are looking for SVDP Cincinnati specific guidelines, then our policy is a great place to start. Please email Alec Jewell at ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org for a copy.

Do I need a background check to work/volunteer with young people?

Yes, we will require all those working and volunteering alongside young people to undergo a background check. We accept background checks through Verified Volunteers and can process a new check if you need one.

Extra Resources

Archdiocese of Cincinnati Decree on Child Protection - https://resources.catholicaoc.org/offices/safe-environment/decreed-on-child-protection?_ga=2.172431969.377640756.1632948704-904212325.1632948704

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People - [https://www.usccb.org/test/upload/Charter-for-the-Protection-of-Children-and-Young-People-2018-final\(1\).pdf](https://www.usccb.org/test/upload/Charter-for-the-Protection-of-Children-and-Young-People-2018-final(1).pdf)

Ohio Adult Protection Services Protocol 2013 - <https://ifs.ohio.gov/OFC/APSProtocol2013.stm>

Ohio Job and Family Services Child Protection Services Website - <https://ifs.ohio.gov/ocf/reportchildabuseandneglect.stm>

SafeParish Website - <https://www.safeparish.com/>

Child Welfare Information Gateway Factsheet on Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect - <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/preventingcan.pdf>