



## **507.1**

■ POLICY

□ GUIDELINE

### **POLICY REGARDING CIVILIAN CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS AND CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING FOR EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS IN THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS**

#### **Clergy, Employees, and Applicants to Clerical Formation**

All clergy serving in the Diocese of Columbus; all parish, school, and diocesan employees; and all applicants to formation for the priesthood or permanent diaconate, regardless of their level of contact with children and youth, are required to complete a civilian criminal background check and participate in a *Protecting God's Children* training session. This policy is applicable to lay employees, professed religious, clergy, and clergy candidates.

#### **Catholic School Volunteers and Volunteers in Parish Programs/Ministries for Children and Youth**

Every volunteer in a program or ministry for children and youth, regardless of their level of contact with children and youth, is required to complete a civilian criminal background check and participate in a *Protecting God's Children* training session. Duration of service does not mitigate compliance with this policy.

*Examples: Catholic School volunteers, Parish School of Religion (PSR) volunteers, youth ministry volunteers, field-trip chaperones and drivers, Scout leaders, coaches and other recreation volunteers, Vacation Bible School volunteers, Children's Liturgy of the Word volunteers, pre-school volunteers, nursery volunteers*

#### **Visiting Athletic Coaches and Officials:**

##### **Catholic Teams from Another Catholic Diocese:**

Athletic teams from another Catholic diocese are required to submit a letter from their Safe Environment Coordinator, stating all adults accompanying the team are compliant with the policies of their home diocese. This letter will be sent to the Safe Environment Consultant for the Diocese of Columbus.

##### **One Time Visit:**

If a non-Catholic athletic team is visiting a Catholic parish for one athletic event (game, meet, scrimmage, etc), the visiting coaches and officials are not required to comply with Diocesan policies regarding background checks and attend a *Protecting God's Children* session. However, the host parish is required to inform the visiting teams about the Diocesan policy regarding "two deep ministry". The host parish is also required to advise the visitors of any and all off limits and adults only areas. The host parish should have sufficient compliant adults in attendance to assist in enforcing these policies.

##### **Frequent Visits:**

A non-Catholic athletic team that is a frequent visitor to a Catholic parish (three (3) or more visits per sports season) is expected to comply with all Diocesan Safe Environment policies.

##### **Non DRA Teams:**

Athletic teams sponsored by a parish, but not affiliated with the Diocesan Recreation Association (DRA) are required to be fully compliant with Diocesan Safe Environment policies.