



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Office of the Bishop
614 • 224 • 2251

GENERAL DECREE

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

The original protocol (03/06) establishing background checks for volunteers, employees and clergy of the Diocese of Columbus who are in any kind of regular contact with children during their service or ministry necessitated a revision based on industry best practices which includes more frequent background checks for the continued vigilance of safeguarding of minors.

This Protocol 03/25, like Protocol 03/06, is considered particular law for the Diocese of Columbus (c. 29).

It is lawfully promulgated (c. 8 §2) by means of publication in the electronic clergy bulletin and should be sent to parish business managers, school administrators, and safe environment officers.


It obliges 4 months (c. 8 §2) from the date of promulgation so that all for whom it is intended have sufficient time to come into compliance with its provisions.

THEREFORE, considering the law and the facts, I hereby decree that the policy contained in Chancery Protocol 03/25, which is attached, abrogates Chancery Protocol 03/06.

Given at the Chancery Office of the Diocese of Columbus on this 22nd day of August 2025.



Most Reverend Earl K. FERNANDES
Bishop of Columbus



Deacon Thomas M. BERG, Jr.
Chancellor