

# Holy Angels and St. Matthew Youth Protection Program November, 2008

By Irene Evans, Youth Protection  
Coordinator

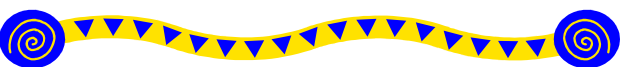
## Diocese of Evansville Youth Protection Policy

Every allegation of child abuse must be reported to **Child Protective Services**, an agency of the Indiana state government. The Posey County hotline is 838-6445 or you may call 911.

In the event of an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor (a person under 18) by diocesan personnel, report the allegation to the authorities, and inform the Victims Assistance Coordinator for the diocese at the toll-free hotline **1-866-200-304**.

Diocesan policy requires that anyone in our parishes who works with youth must have a background check and annual youth protection training. In addition, children and adults in our parishes must receive training annually. Our parishes are in compliance with these policies. This year, our training for children included information on personal safety and Internet safety. Additional information is provided below by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Crisis Connection.

Bishop Gettelfinger asks for our help in protecting the children of our parishes. If you have any questions, you may contact me at 838-2535.



## For Adults

from the American  
Academy of Pediatrics

If a child does reveal sexual abuse to you, the most important point is to take what your child says seriously. Many children who report sexual abuse are not believed. When a child's plea for help is ignored, he may not risk telling again. As a result, the child could remain a victim of abuse for months or years.

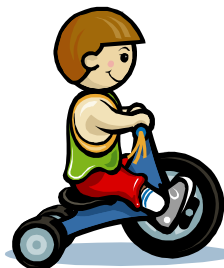
If the abuser is a friend or family member, you may be tempted to try and stop the problem yourself. This will not be successful. The hard but healthy way to deal with this problem is to confront the problem to avoid future abuse. Discuss this problem with your pediatrician to get help and counseling for your child, and report the abuse to local child protective serves, who will investigate and determine whether to report it to the police.

Talking about sexual abuse can be very hard for a child who has been threatened or told not to tell by the abuser, who is often a trusted adult. It can be just as hard for adults to talk about it if the abuser is someone close to them. Still, in the best interest of the child, the abuse needs to be reported and the child needs to get help.



## For Children

from the Crisis Connection of Dubois County  
[www.crisisconnectioninc.org](http://www.crisisconnectioninc.org)



You have the right to say "no." It is your right to say "no" to anyone who wants to do something that makes you feel unsafe.

**Remember: NO! GO! TELL!**

1. Watch for unsafe situations.
  - Unsafe looks and touches can come from strangers or people you know.
  - People who abuse children can look just like anyone else.
2. People are responsible for their own actions.
  - If someone gives you an unsafe look or touch - or asks you to touch him or her - it's never your fault.
  - Abuse can happen to a boy or a girl.
3. Adults who care about you will listen to you.
  - It's important to talk to a trusted adult about anything that worries you or makes you feel unsafe.
  - Keep telling until someone listens.