

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Department of Youth Safety Compliance



**Youth Safety Compliance Presentation
Wednesday, September 9, 2020 - 1:00 to 2:30pm**



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

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Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

If you have Policy or Technical Questions during the presentation, please write them immediately in the Q and A box below.

Q

and

A

Questions will be answered at the end of the presentation.



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

Does CoViD19 change our polices?

No! You need to be Registered, Screened & Trained for both kinds of Ministry.



In-Person Events



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On-line/Virtual Events





Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

KNOW Your Metropolis Youth Safety Administrator

DAD: Fr. Panagiotis Papazafiropoulos: FrPanagiotis@goarch.org

ATLANTA: Monica Gjerde: Youth@AtlMetropolis.org

BOSTON: Panos Coufos: Pcoufos@Boston.goarch.org

CHICAGO: Fr Kosmas Kallis: Y2AM@Chicago.goarch.org

DENVER: Jenny Stasinopoulos: Jenny@Denver.goarch.org

DETROIT: Eva Konstantakos: Youth@Detroit.goarch.org

NEW JERSEY: Fr Angelo Artemas: FrAngelo321@gmail.com

PITTSBURGH: Rhea Ballas: RBallas@Pittsburgh.goarch.org

SAN FRANCISCO: Johanna Duterte Carter: JDuterte@SanFran.goarch.org



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

30,000 Foot View of the Policies

- **Select a PYSA**
- **Complete and submit a contract to Praesidium**
- **Notify Your Metropolis**
- **Solicit Youth Workers, who MUST AGREE to participate**
- **Complete training annually and pass screening every two years (Criminal Background Check)**



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

30,000 Foot View of the Policies



Follow Policy Guidelines

Best Practices Can Be Tailored To Your Needs

**Youth Workers are
Mandated Reporters**

Go Serve and Protect the Kids



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

Which Specific Ministries are covered?

- ✦ Acolytes ✦ Sunday School ✦ Dance ✦ Hope
- ✦ Joy ✦ Jr GOYA ✦ GOYA ✦ Youth Choirs
- ✦ Parochial and Charter Schools ✦ Mom's-n-Tots
- ✦ Camps/Retreats ✦ Tutoring ✦ Sports/Leagues
- ✦ Festival Youth Booths ✦ And Others

- ✦ Even... ✦ Scouting ✦ Sons of Pericles
- ✦ Daughters of Penelope ✦ And Others



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

How does my Parish or my School appoint a Parish Youth Safety Administrator?

The Parish YS Administrator is automatically the Parish Council President OR his/her designee.

Once they are named and they agree, the priest or PC President submits the signed contract to Praesidium. The name, email, and phone number of the PYSA must then be communicated to the Metropolis.

The new PYSA must also be Registered, Screened and Trained.



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

Who **MUST** be a Youth Worker?

- All Clergymen (Bishops/Priests/Deacons, both Active & Retired)
- Pastoral Assistants & Youth Directors
- People assisting, in any ministry, where the participants are under 18 years of age or in high school, whichever is later.
 - Including Parish Youth Safety Administrators, Chaperones & Drivers
- Even... Parents who occasionally help-out, but are alone with other people's children



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

Are you

- **Volunteering for a youth ministry?**
- **Paid staff for a youth ministry?**

You **Must Be A REGISTERED, SCREENED
& TRAINED Youth Worker**



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

Do you have

- **ACCESS** to
- **PRIVACY** with
- **CONTROL** of

any youth in your ministry?

You **Must** Be A REGISTERED, SCREENED
& TRAINED Youth Worker



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

Are you

- **Simply cooking or serving food?**
- **Setting up and breaking down an event?**
- **Picking up & dropping off kids to a youth event and then leaving?**

YOU MAY NOT NEED TO BE A REGISTERED YOUTH WORKER



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

How do I become a Youth Worker?

REGISTER at Your Parish with Your Parish YS Administrator

SCREEN Take the Criminal Background Check Every 2-Years

TRAIN by Completing Two Courses Every Year

That's it!!!



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

What If I Never Received My Email To Submit My Background Screen or To Complete My Two Course Training?

- 1) Check Junk and Spam Folders**
- 2) Contact Your Parish YS Administrator**
- 3) Contact Praesidium (email support@praesidiuminc.com)**
- 4) Contact Your Metropolis YS Administrator**



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

Jim Gabriel
As Parish Youth Safety
Administrator



**How our Parish got 100% of our Youth Workers
Registered, Screened and Trained!!!**

How to Overcome Potential Stumbling Blocks?
(Things to look out for --- and avoid)



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

In-Person & Online

Have your Youth Workers review a copy of the Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth.

You can find a copy at GOARCH.org/safety or in the documents attached to this webinar



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

In-Person & Online

Have enough committed youth workers to lead and supervise events.

Not having enough approved youth workers means the **EVENT CANNOT HAPPEN.**



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

In-Person & Online

Rule of 2 or 3

Always have more than one Youth Worker during an event.

2 or 3 adults -- in case 1 adult leaves or is disconnected

For Online - Select a Youth Worker to monitor online behavior.

Disable private chat function

No 1-on-1 interactions

(Chat Box/ Cell Phone/ Social Media)



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

In-Person & Online

- **Rules of Conduct**
- **Misconduct Policy**
- **Participant Covenant**
- **Notice of Concern**

Both parents and youth participants should understand how misconduct is defined and reported.

Go to the webinar documents for examples.



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

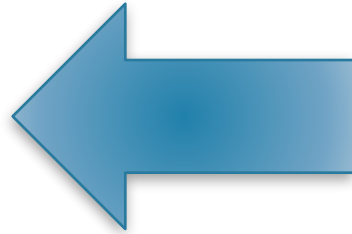
In-Person & Online

**Pre-Registration
is a must for security in today's world**

**DO NOT post meeting links or info publicly.
Best Practice is to get full names and set up a meeting
password to ensure confirmed participants.**



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth For In-Person Youth Ministries



*Group:
Not Socially
Distanced*

**Develop supervision plans to protect
Youth Participants and Youth Workers during
events at Church AND at other locations.**



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

For Online Ministries

Familiarize yourself with the technology so you know it better than the youth participants.

Especially security and privacy.



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

For Online Ministries

**IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED
NOT TO RECORD ONLINE OR
VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES OR MINISTRIES**

If you decide to record, it should not be distributed or posted online without written consent of parents/guardians before recording.

Verbally affirm recording at beginning of meeting.



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

Violations of Policy: Emotional / Physical Abuse

Review Policies and Reporting Procedures:

- 1) What are Violations of the Policy?**
- 2) What Needs to Be Reported to Civil Authorities?**



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

Be clear about reporting bullying with youth participants, parents, and youth workers.

Be clear about consequences in your Misconduct Policy.

**ZERO TOLERANCE
For Bullying Online or In-person**





Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

MANDATED REPORTING

If you witness or suspect Abuse or Negligence,

you **MUST** report it to

Civil
Authority





Founded in 1959
by Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson

PREVENTION *and* TREATMENT *of* CHILD ABUSE

**If you witness ABUSE or NEGLECT,
call Childhelp and they will help direct you
to the right agency for Mandated Reporting.**

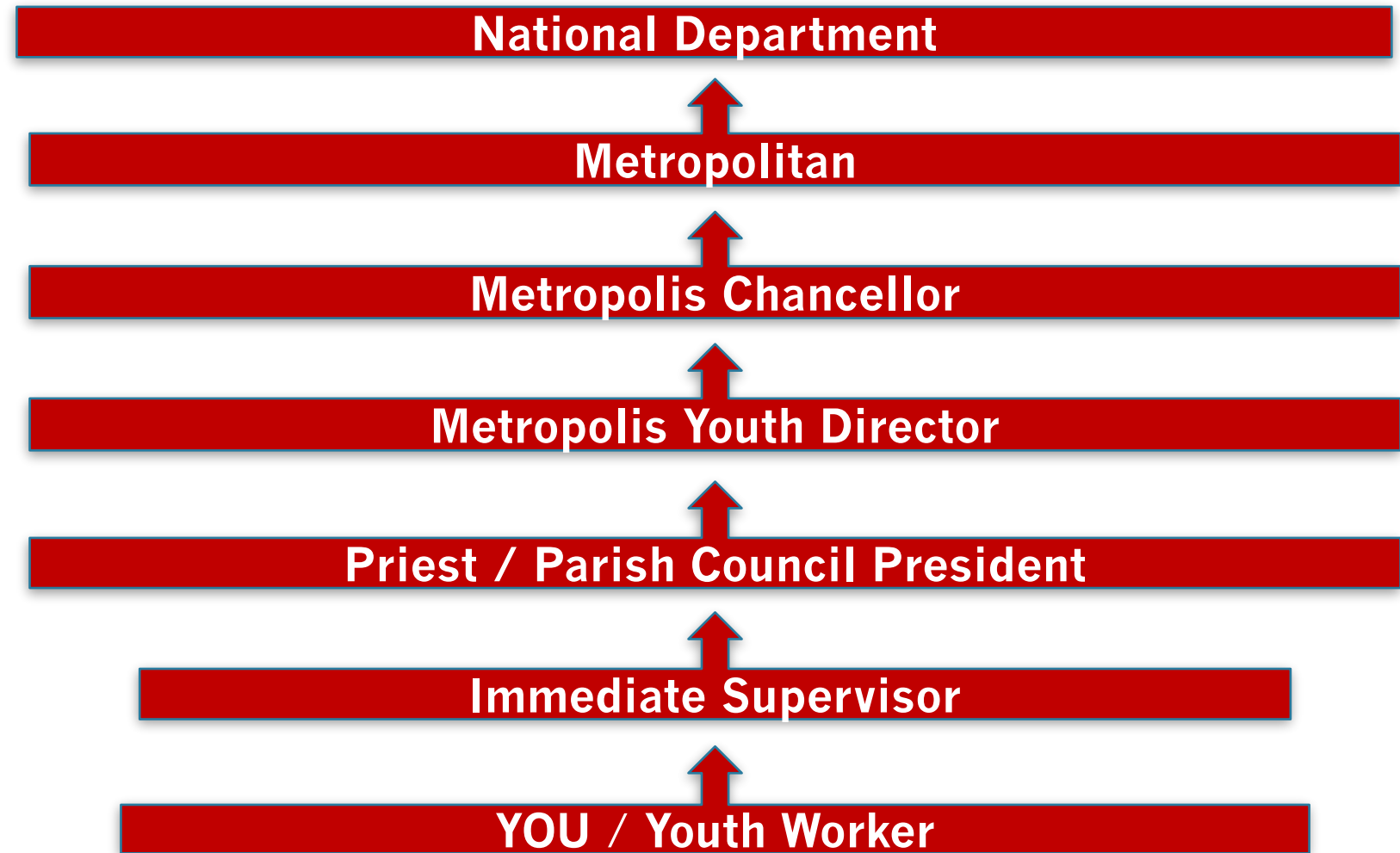
**Civil
Authority**

**Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline
1-800-4-A-Child or 1-800-422-4453**



As a Youth Worker you have a DUTY to report suspected abuse and negligence to the Church

Church Authority





**If you or someone you know is in crisis,
please call the Suicide Prevention Lifeline**

Call



**Let Your
Priest Know**

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1-800-273-TALK or 1-800-273-8255**



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

What If My Parish Is Small Or Cannot Comply?

**For Legal and Insurance Reasons,
Refusal to comply with the Policies is NOT an option.**

Any questions or concerns? Clergy should reach out to their Metropolis to discuss parish limitations and to develop a sensible plan for compliance.



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

Jerry Vasilatos As Praesidium Process Guru



My PYSA signed me up as a Youth Worker but I never saw any emails to take training or complete a background check ! What do I do?

I submitted my background check but weeks later my PYSA says it's still pending. What's up?

I completed all training modules but at least one still shows incomplete! What should I do?



Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION