Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Department of Youth Safety Compliance

Youth Safety Compliance Presentation
Wednesday, September 9, 2020 - 1:00 to 2:30pm
If you have Policy or Technical Questions during the presentation, please write them immediately in the Q and A box below.

Questions will be answered at the end of the presentation.
Does CoViD19 change our policies?

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

In-Person Events

On-line/Virtual Events
Policies for the Safety of Children & Youth

KNOW Your Metropolis Youth Safety Administrator

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

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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
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.
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.
For Online Ministries

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

Especially security and privacy.
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.
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:

Church Authority

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

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

**Call**

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Let Your Priest Know

suicidepreventionlifeline.org
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.
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?
QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION