**Title: 4030 YOUTH PROTECTION**

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| Act 126 of 2012Pennsylvania Department of Education Act 24 of 2011 Act 168 of 2014 Act 164 of 2014 | **4030 Youth Protection**The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is committed to preventing sexual misconduct or sexual abuse of minors by any Diocesan personnel and shall establish a Safe Environments Program to ensure the safety of ministry, education, work, worship, and fellowship for all persons. For the purposes of this policy, the term “personnel” shall mean clergy and members of religious orders, any Diocesan, parish, or school employee, volunteer, or contractor. The term “Safe Environments Documents” shall mean the Policies for the Protection of Youth and Vulnerable Persons, and the Code of Conduct. The Diocese shall maintain a permanent record of all documents pertaining to personnel training. 1. Personnel Training General: * All Diocesan personnel and volunteers are trained to recognize and report sexual misconduct and sexual abuse of minors;
* All must complete the Diocesan online “Safe Environments Training.” [Virtus Online](https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/)
* All must complete the state-approved training, “Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse.” [Mandated Reporter Training (Act 126)](http://www.reportabusepa.pitt.edu)
* All must read and sign the Diocesan Safe Environments Documents.

2. Diocesan School Personnel - For all adult and Diocesan school educators, staff ,and employees:* Federal Bureau of Investigation Fingerprint Clearance, renewed every five (5) years when continuously employed;
* Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Clearance, renewed every five (5) years when continuously employed;
* Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance, renewed every (5) years when continuously employed;
* Arrest/Conviction Report and Certification Form, required of new employees or returning employees;
* Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Sexual Misconduct/Abuse Disclosure Release required of new employees or returning employees;
* National Criminal History Record Search (name-based);
* National Sex Offender Registry Search (name-based) ;
* Social Security Number Verification.

If any Diocesan school educator, staff, employee, or volunteer should have a break in service for over three hundred and sixty-five (365) calendar days, they will be required to renew the following clearances:* Federal Bureau of Investigation Fingerprint Clearance;
* Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Clearance;
* Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance;
* Arrest/Conviction Report and Certification Form;
* Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Sexual Misconduct/Abuse Disclosure Release.
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