

2026-2027  
Organizational Meeting

Ladd Rosipal  
State Advocate

District Deputy Leadership  
Briefing



“Protecting our children is the sacred duty of every Knight.”  
– Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly

# Purpose of the Safe Environment Program

- The Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program exists to ensure that all minors and vulnerable persons served in our programs are protected from abuse.
- The program is operated in partnership with Praesidium, a national leader in abuse prevention.
- The Order maintains a Zero Tolerance Policy for abuse. Members who must register as sex offenders are ineligible for membership.

***\*\*\* The Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Training is Unique to our Organization and can not be substituted for/or with the Catholic Virtus training and must be completed separately. \*\*\****

# General Policy

Programs, events, and activities involving minors or vulnerable persons (e.g., Coats for Kids, Free Throw, parish events, meals, etc.) require:

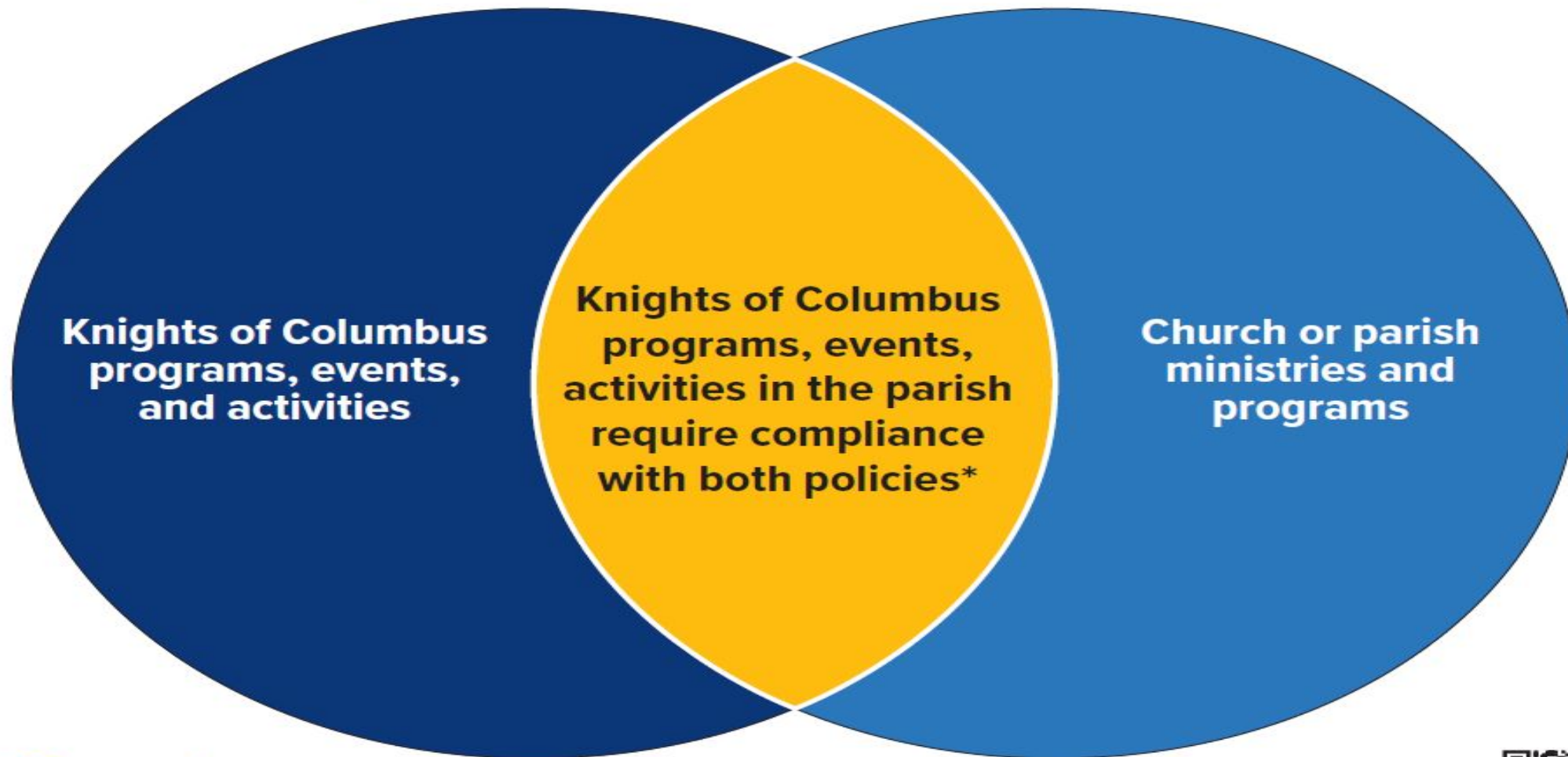
- A. Two Key Leaders/Lead Volunteers Present
  - Both must:
  - Have completed KofC Safe Environment Training within the last three years. (Training is now delivered through the KofC Academy.)
- B. Background Check Requirement
  - At least one of the two Key Leaders must:
  - Be the Family Director or Community Director, and
  - Have completed the required background check through the KofC Safe Environment Program.
- C. Diocesan Compliance Requirement
  - Supreme now emphasizes that the first requirement is compliance with diocesan safe environment requirements for any activity on parish property.
- D. No Substitutions
  - VIRTUS does NOT replace KofC training.
  - Both diocesan and KofC requirements must be met separately.

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# Safe Environment Policies Overlap

Knights of Columbus Policy

Diocesan Policy



Office of  
Youth Protection

\*excluding council meetings



# Requirements for each Council

- Every council must have:
  - A. A Grand Knight (Form 185)
    - Submitted through Member Management.
  - B. A Form 365 – Report of Program Personnel
    - Submitted through Member Management.
- C. Three Distinct Members Assigned
  - Required for Safe Environment compliance:
    - Program Director
    - Community Director (background check required)
    - Family Director (background check required)
  - Updates from Supreme:
    - These positions must be three different members.
    - The Grand Knight may hold only one of these roles.

*\*All other Directors on the form 365 will be given the opportunity to take the Safe Environment training but only the above are required for compliance.*

# Best Practices

## Best Practices emphasize:

### Visibility & Accountability

- Never be alone with a minor.
- Counseling or conversations must occur in view of others.
- Maintain awareness of all adults present.

### Communication & Boundaries

- Do not initiate or encourage one-on-one interactions with minors.
- Do not give gifts without parental permission and GK approval.

## Transparency

- All programs involving minors must be open to parents/guardians.

## Reporting

- If you observe:
  - Boundary violations
  - Inappropriate behavior
  - Suspected abuse
  - You must:
    - Report to law enforcement (first requirement).
    - Notify the Diocese.
    - ***NOTIFY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OF SUSPECTED ABUSE AT [1-844-563-2723](tel:1-844-563-2723)***

## WHAT TO WATCH FOR:

Boundary Violations and Inappropriate Behavior



# PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

## HOW TO INTERRUPT:

Boundary Violations and Inappropriate Behavior



### PHYSICAL



- Touching too much, long hugs, or kissing a child
- Tickling a child, wrestling, or horseplay
- Massaging or pulling onto lap

### EMOTIONAL



- Being possessive or controlling
- Treating a child like a boyfriend or girlfriend
- Being emotionally volatile with children

### BEHAVIORAL



- Seeking time alone with a child or private messaging
- Using crude or inappropriate language with a child
- Encouraging a child to break the rules or keep secrets

### BLOCK ACCESS



- Call your child to you; move in between the adult and your child; pick up your child; or ask the adult to give him or her to you.
- Follow and stay with your child; encourage situations where at least two adults are present.
- Pay attention to who is in your child's life; monitor social media and texting activity.

### POLITE CONFRONTATION



- Give an instruction to cease behavior with a matter-of-fact explanation of the inappropriate behavior; avoid saying "would you mind" or "could you".
- Don't apologize for having rules to keep your child safe.
- If the behavior repeats, take the time to get a commitment from the adult to cease the behavior.

### IMPOLITE CONFRONTATION



- Give a more direct instruction to cease the behavior using fewer words.
- Use the adult's name to get his or her attention; use a firm tone of voice and maintain eye contact.
- Get a commitment from the adult that he or she will not continue this behavior.

## HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS



# PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

## UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS



*Truly healthy relationships have most, if not all, of the following characteristics. If your relationship does not have these qualities, check the section for characteristics of unhealthy relationships.*



- We both like each other similarly.
- We share common interests and experiences together.
- My friend has other friends.
- My friend welcomes new friends to spend time with us.
- My friend treats other people with dignity and respect.
- I can count on my friend keep his or her word.
- My friend stands up for me.
- My friend is there for me in good times and bad.
- My friend encourages me to do the right thing.
- My friend tells the truth.
- My friend has my best interests at heart.

*If two statements are true, the relationship has the potential to be unhealthy. If three or more are true, the relationship has characteristics of a destructive, controlling, or unhealthy relationship.*



- My friend sometimes tries to hurt me emotionally.
- My friend makes unrealistic demands on my time.
- My friend tries to control me.
- I spend time worrying about this person or my relationship.
- My friend tells me who to spend time with.
- It seems like my friend takes more than he or she gives.
- My friend has threatened me or tried to intimidate me.
- When my friend gives me a gift, he or she expects something in return.
- My friend sometimes talks behind my back.
- My friend wants me to do things that will get me in trouble.
- I feel guilty or afraid when I spend time with my friend.

# Safe Environment Program (SEP) Reports

## Safe Environment Member Status Report

- List of all members currently holding roles with Safe Environment Program (SEP) requirements
- Details compliance at the member level
- If an SEP role is not filled, it will not be on this report
- This is run daily from Tuesdays – Saturdays and posted in Officers Online

## Safe Environment Participation Rate Report

- One row for each council
- List of SEP appointments at the council level
- There is a column for each of the four council roles that have SEP requirements:
  - grand knight, program, family, and community directors
- There is a member number in each filled role and a zero if the role is unfilled
- Faith and life directors do NOT have SEP requirements at this time
- Council Status is A if active, S if suspended
- This is run on Tuesdays and posted in Officers Online

## Safe Environment Council Compliance Report

- This report pulls together all the member level data, participation, and SEP requirements to detail compliance at the council level
- The Safe Environment Council Compliance Report runs on Wednesdays (or Thursdays if Monday was a holiday) and posted in Officers Online

\*All of the Safe Environment Program Reports may be found in Officers Online under the Reports tab

\*Members will be able to view these reports based on their level of access in Officers Online

# Safe Environment Program (SEP) Reports

- **Training Program Type (column O):**

1. Legacy

The current, valid training completion was in the legacy system, Armatus

2. Round 1

The current training assignment or completion are the two training modules in Academy

3. Round 2

The current training assignment or completion are the two new training modules in Academy

- **Training Program Start Date (column P):**

Date the current training was assigned

- **Training Due By/Compliance (column Q):**

1. Date the current training is due

2. “Compliant” if training is complete

3. “Non-Compliant” if training was not completed by the due date

- **Training Program Completion Date (column R):**

Date the current training was completed or blank if not yet complete

- **Re-Training Eligibility Date (column S):**

Date the next phase of training will be assigned or blank if current training not yet complete

*\* If there is a date here, it is 45 days prior to when the current training will expire. Subsequent training is assigned 45 days prior to expiration giving members the ability to complete before the current training expires.*

# Charter Constitution and Laws of the Knights of Columbus

Every District Deputy Should have a copy of the Charter Constitution and Laws of the Knights of Columbus. \*Electronic Copy Attached\*

Areas to pay close attention to:

- Chapter 10 – District & Territorial Deputies
  - Sec. 62:
    - Supervise councils
    - Enforce laws and rules
    - Ensure compliance with Supreme directives

# Charter Constitution and Laws of the Knights of Columbus – Cont.

## Inspect Books, Etc.

- 3. Inspect the books, vouchers and accounts of councils within the district, and may at any time demand them for examination.

## Councils To Obey

- 5. “...the various council officers and members shall implicitly obey his ruling and decisions in all matters of disputes or otherwise, and all lawful orders made by him.”

## Cause Accounts To Be Properly Kept

- 7. Cause the accounts of councils in his district to be kept in the books furnished by the Supreme Secretary, and in the manner provided by law.

# Charter Constitution and Laws of the Knights of Columbus – Cont.

## Expenses

SEC. 64. The necessary expenses incurred by a Territorial or District Deputy in the performance of his duties within his district shall be paid upon bills rendered and after approval by the State Deputy.

But no expenses of a District Deputy shall be chargeable to the Supreme Council for duties performed outside his own district unless the incurring of expenses for such duties shall have been first authorized by the Supreme Knight or Board of Directors.

# Charter Constitution and Laws of the Knights of Columbus – Cont.

I have Highlighted some various other Articles that we get questions on.

Chapter 15 – Duties of Council Officers

Sec 135 – Grand Knight

Sec 136 – Deputy Grand Knight

Sec 137 – Chancellor

Sec 138 – Recorder

Sec 139 – Financial Secretary

Sec 140 – Treasurer

SEC 145 – The Board of Trustees – A lot of council fail to utilize their Trustees fully

# Any Questions



# Contact Information

Ladd Rosipal

c. 770-401-6779

e. [state.advocate@gakofc.org](mailto:state.advocate@gakofc.org)

e. [ladd.Rosipal@gakofc.org](mailto:ladd.Rosipal@gakofc.org)

Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Helpline, 1-844-563-2723.

K of C Safe Environment Program Line, 203-800-4940.

Armatus Technical Support, 1-800-743-6354 or [support@praesidiuminc.com](mailto:support@praesidiuminc.com).

***IF you Suspect Abuse call 1-844-563-2723***

# Links to Leadership Resources

[KofC Safe Environment Program Overview](#)

[Safe Environment Program Council Compliance](#)

[Get started with Training](#)

[KofC Safe Environment Website](#)

[Quick Reference Guide](#)