

Safe Environment



The Diocese of Grand Island [Safe Environment Program](#) is a ministry of the [Diocesan Office of Child Protection](#) (CPO). The mission of the Child Protection Office is to create a culture of protection and healing throughout the [Diocese of Grand Island](#); promoting right relationships, preventing abuse, and offering healing and support. The CPO goal for every parish, school and program is for each to be a place where all people can experience the loving relationships that God intended for His children.

Programs and ministries for children, youth and vulnerable adults in the Diocese of Grand Island follow the [Charter for Protection and Young People](#) established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Charter guides dioceses, parishes, and schools in efforts to prevent abuse and provide healing outreach to individuals who have experienced abuse.

All parishes and schools have a [Safe Environment Coordinator](#) (SEC) who is responsible for prevention efforts including:

- Screening and training of volunteers and staff
- Education of children, youth, parents, and vulnerable adults
- Implementation of safe environment strategies
- Reporting of abuse.

The SEC works closely with the [Diocesan Office of Child Protection](#) (CPO) to document compliance with the Charter in these areas. The CPO offers an annual SEC Workshop to train SECs as trainers of Initial Training and Continuing Education and to provide necessary updates in all other areas of prevention. In some parishes the Director of Religious Education serves as the SEC. In others, SEC is a separate ministry. When DRE and SEC are separate ministries, it is essential that they work together to ensure that all safe environment requirements are implemented, documented, and reported to the CPO.

Every diocese has a [Victim Assistance Ministry](#) to provide outreach to abuse survivors and serve as a point of contact with the Church in reporting incidents of abuse. To reach a Victim Assistance Coordinator in the Diocese of Grand Island call 1-800-652-2229.

Diocese of Grand Island Child Protection Office

Phone: 308-382-6565

Email: cpo@gidiocese.org

Director: Elizabeth A. Heidt Kozisek, Ph.D.

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Outreach Coordinator: Cheryl Albright, M.S.

308-440-7644

calbright@gidiocese.org

Website: <https://www.gidiocese.org/safe-environment>

SE Resources



Policies and Procedures

USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People

<https://www.usccb.org/offices/child-and-youth-protection/charter-protection-children-and-young-people>

Diocese of Grand Island Child Protection Policy

<https://www.gidiocese.org/policy-procedures>

Adult Screening and Training

General Requirements and Forms

<https://www.gidiocese.org/volunteers-and-staff>

Initial Training

<https://www.gidiocese.org/safe-environment-training>

Continuing Education

<https://www.gidiocese.org/continuing-education>

SE Education

Child / Youth Materials

<https://www.gidiocese.org/children-and-youth>

Resources for Parents

<https://www.gidiocese.org/safe-environment-parent-resources>

Reporting Abuse

Diocese of Grand Island Victim Assistance Ministry: 800-652-2229

<https://www.gidiocese.org/victim-assistance>

Nebraska Child Abuse Reporting Hotline: 800-652-1999

How to Report Abuse: <https://www.nebraskacacs.com/how-to-help/report-abuse.html>

Catholic Bishops Abuse Reporting Service (CBAR): 800-276-1562

<https://reportbishopabuse.org/>