

How many nights have we crawled into bed with the worries and the weight of the day upon us. Maybe we made some less than pleasing decisions during the day (guilty –my hand is up in the air).

It could be that what ever happened during the day was something we could not control. It could be that when we woke up, we had such determination not to do something, but before night fall, we were doing the very thing we were determined not to do. (guilty—my hand is up again).

I believe that once our head hits the pillow and we finally relinquish the struggle of the day, God can then go to work clearing out our head and heart and filling us with peace for the next day. He can only do this when we are asleep and get out of His way. The relinquished feeling can sometimes feel as equally exhausting as the struggle itself, but in a freeing way.

Next time the day has been less than pleasant and you just want it to be over with, truly relinquish whatever struggle you've had that day to God.

Try this. Cup your hands together. Raise them up and say, “here God, this is Yours, I don't need it anymore today.” Then wait for the good return to come.

- Reba Sommer

tip If you have someone who tells you they took a training course called Shield the Vulnerable, they may be compliant with training. Shield the Vulnerable is a training that was in place before VIRTUS's Protecting God's Children. Please call or email me. I have an electronic file and would be able to verify that for you. VIRTUS does not store that information.

tip Have you seen “Pending Accounts” and duplicate names in VIRTUS? A number of you have asked about cleaning up your Parish/School lists so they are not a mile long. VIRTUS is working with us and we are going through every account and cleaning those lists up. If you have someone who started the training more than three months ago and did not finish, please ask them to begin from the beginning.

ICHAT Safety Requirements

Thank you to the schools and parishes who requested ICHAT codes. In hearing feedback, it appeared to be an easy process for you. Our goal for 12/1 was that every parish and school have an agency code.

Here are a few things that will help you with easier record keeping.

- Once you have completed the background, the background results are only kept on the ICHAT website for seven days before they are deleted.
- You may print out a hard copy keep in a locked filing cabinet.
- Store hard copy in a separate file, not in their personnel file.
- Please do not leave any results or the Criminal Background Consent (CBC) form lying around.
- Before leaving for the day any hard copy results and CBC must be placed in a secure and locked location before leaving, even if you are in the middle of working on them.
- Many of us have traffic coming and going so please do not take chances and have these confidential documents out in the open.
- As a directive from the Michigan State Police (MSP), make sure your computer is not facing a door or in view from an outside window. If you have to leave your desk while running ICHATS, please do a quick screen lock before walking away.
- Some schools only run an ICHAT a few days from the date that a volunteer has signed up to serve so please don't use your time running ICHATS on every volunteer if they are not serving. By the time they serve, the ICHAT is not current.
- Backgrounds are only for adults 18 years old and a graduate from high school.
- You must always have a consent form before running an ICHAT. You may be requested by MSP to produce both.

Please do not ever hesitate to call me if I can help answer any questions. That is what I am here for!

The links below provide the CBC form and a quick view of who needs an ICHAT.

<http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/sites/default/files/files/DOLBackgroundCheckReleaseNOV2014.pdf>

<http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/sites/default/files/files/GridVirtusCBCProcessAug2016.pdf>



Safe Environment Newsletter

tip If you get a hit, (a background shows criminal history) always compare these things on the Criminal Background Consent form or Driver License.

Complete spelling of first name, middle initial and last name.

Complete Date of birth, race and gender.

If it is not clear that these are two different individuals, please feel free to call and we can walk through it together. If you are certain the criminal history belongs to the individual, call me immediately.



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