More and more of our schools in our Diocese are putting together a new year Welcome Packet for parents. In this packet of good information, every parent is asked to take the Protecting God's Children at the beginning of the school year. Online training is available if someone can not schedule a live session. This has been well received and minimizes the amount of scrambling and last minute training when searching for volunteers. If you are interested, let me know and I can send you a sample checklist of what has been given to me. Religious Formation groups in our parishes are doing this too.

Do I have to have every single parent who comes into the classroom take Protecting God's Children? This question comes up often. If parents who volunteer have ongoing, unsupervised contact with minors, while parties are going on or a classroom activity is being held then yes. Parents must take the training before the event begins. If parents are coming to the classroom to observe or help in other areas and these parents do not have ongoing, unsupervised contact with minors then they do not have to take the training.

**4 Hour Rule**

A few years ago there was a four hour rule that stated any adult who spent four hours or more in the classroom has to take the Protecting God's Children training. It became hard to track time that was spent in the classroom and before you know it, the four hours have turned into six hours or eight hours of voluntary time. If you have a parent who wants to volunteer and will fulfill the responsibilities of ongoing supervision, follow best practice and ask them to take the training. Throw out the four hour rule. It will save you so much time not to track each individual person.

Daycare teachers, aides and other daycare helpers do not need to be fingerprinted. However, they must have a criminal background run and the Department of Human Services (DHS) form completed too. Only Daycare Directors must have fingerprinting; using the Fingerprint Code CPE. As of this newsletter we have updated the VIRTUS and Criminal Background Check Information Grid and School Flowchart for VIRTUS Training and Criminal Background.

http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/child_and_youth_protection

Please check the Safe Environment page on the Diocese website for the most current form. Some forms have been revised. A new look to the page will be coming in 2017.

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