



## AT A GLANCE: SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING RECERTIFICATION AND NEW TRAINING

*The best approach to addressing abuse is  
to prevent it from occurring in the first place.*

The Archdiocese of Detroit has updated its Safe Environment policies. For compliance, adherence to these policies is required in every office, parish, school, and Catholic agency within the AOD to protect – especially – children and vulnerable adults from sexual abuse. Requiring all volunteers and employees to take the training empowers more men and women to know the warning signs and helps them become part of the solution of preventing abuse. Running background checks for ALL employees and volunteers can help deter criminals and sexual predators from participating in any parish or school ministry or event. If a criminal understands that they will have to undergo a background check, they will less likely attempt to volunteer.

The AOD uses *Virtus*, an online platform for all training, monitoring, and data collection.

### **Recertification is required for all existing volunteers and employees who completed *Protecting God's Children* (PGC) before January 1, 2020.**

- Recertification must be completed by **November 1, 2023**.
- All 100,000+ AOD-registered Virtus users were sent an email (from Virtus) in late June and early July with links for recertification.
- If you did not receive an email about your recertification, log into your existing Virtus account. **You should not create a new account if you have taken *Protecting God's Children* in the past. If you do not remember your username or password, Virtus offers a username and password recovery option at [bit.ly/Virtus\\_Account\\_Recovery](https://bit.ly/Virtus_Account_Recovery).** If you have difficulties accessing your account, contact the Virtus Help Desk ([helpdesk@virtus.org](mailto:helpdesk@virtus.org) / 888-847-8870) or send an email to [protectchildren@aod.org](mailto:protectchildren@aod.org).
- Once you have logged into your Virtus account you should see the assigned training under the Home tab / Current Training.
- The self-paced modules (*Protecting God's Children* and *Vulnerable Adults*) are entirely online and take approximately 2.5 hours to complete.
- You can stop and start as you need to complete training at your convenience.

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## Existing Volunteers who have NEVER taken a PGC session before:

- A PGC session must be completed by **November 1, 2023**.
- The self-paced modules (*Protecting God's Children* and *Vulnerable Adults*) are entirely online and take approximately 2.5 hours to complete.
- Register online at [bit.ly/Virtus\\_Registration](https://bit.ly/Virtus_Registration)
- You can stop and start as you need to complete training at your convenience.

## New Employees and New Recurrent Volunteers

- All new employees and new recurrent adult volunteers must register on the Virtus platform ([bit.ly/Virtus\\_Registration](https://bit.ly/Virtus_Registration))
- You must be certified before commencing your role.
- You are required to register for a live session of *Protecting God's Children* training (either in person or by Zoom) and the online self-paced *Vulnerable Adults* training will be assigned to you.

## New occasional adult volunteers (1-3 times per year volunteer), even those who do not serve in a direct role working with youth, must be trained

- You must register on the Virtus platform and complete training before volunteering ([bit.ly/Virtus\\_Registration](https://bit.ly/Virtus_Registration))
- You may complete your certification either -
  - entirely online at your convenience with the self-paced training modules for *Protecting God's Children* and *Vulnerable Adults*, or
  - by attending an in-person or live Zoom session for *Protecting God's Children* and completing the self-paced *Vulnerable Adults* module online.

## Background Checks

Parishes or schools are responsible for running background checks through the Michigan State Police ICHAT portal.

- An annual background check is now required for ALL clergy, employees, and recurrent adult volunteers.
- A biennial background check is required for occasional volunteers and those contracted by parishes and schools.
- Contact the Office of Child and Youth Protection for assistance running background checks on employees and recurrent adult volunteers who have not lived in Michigan for at least 7 years ([protectchildren@aod.org](mailto:protectchildren@aod.org) / 313-237-5826).

LEARN MORE:  
[protect.aod.org](https://protect.aod.org)



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