



Protecting our students is a top priority; therefore, we adhere to requirements set forth by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati in the Decree on Child Protection. In order to begin volunteering, you must *first* attend a VIRTUS Protecting God's Children training session and complete a background check. To remain active with your VIRTUS training, you will also be required to keep up with the continuing education component by reading the monthly VIRTUS training bulletins.

To begin, you first need to request a Fastrax Token from our Safe Environment Coordinator, Mary Ehret (mehret@sthenryparish.com). The token is used as a payment method for the background check so that you are not personally responsible for payment. In order for the token to work properly, St. Henry parish, Dayton MUST be your PRIMARY location. Following is a link to VIRTUS and background check registration instructions: <http://sthenryparish.com/wp-content/uploads/Virtus-Background-Check-Registration-Directions.pdf>.

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers:

What exactly is VIRTUS? VIRTUS is a program aimed at the prevention of child sexual abuse. This program seeks to safeguard our children by educating school and parish staff, volunteers, and parents about ways to prevent sexual abuse, methods of properly reporting suspicions of abuse, and the proper way to respond to allegations of abuse.

How long does a VIRTUS training session last? The training session is scheduled to last up to 3 hours. You are provided with some brochures/paperwork, watch a few videos and have a group discussion based on the videos. It is very informal and many that have attended a session said they found the class to be very eye opening, thought provoking and very beneficial.

What are the monthly training bulletins and how is the reading of it tracked? After you have completed the background check and attended a VIRTUS training session, you will begin to receive monthly emails (bulletins) that include a short article that is relevant to children and abuse. Examples of topics are: Preventing Cyberbullying, Mobile Device App Awareness, Steps to Preventing Teen Sex Trafficking. At the end of each article you must answer 1 multiple choice question. That is how they track your ongoing compliance of the VIRTUS program.

What happens if a monthly bulletin is missed? After 3 missed bulletins, you may be required to retake the VIRTUS training session. If you are not receiving the monthly bulletins, contact Mary Ehret (mehret@sthenryparish.com). Even if you fall behind on the bulletins, you may go to www.virtusonline.org at any time and log into your account to view your outstanding bulletins. You will be able to click on any missed bulletins/articles, answer the multiple choice question and will then be all caught up.