

Safe Environment Policy of the Archdiocese of Miami

The Archdiocese of Miami, along with 194 dioceses of the United States Catholic Conference, is committed to providing safe environments for those who need protection the most, our children and our vulnerable adults.

Under the direction of Archbishop Favalora, we have kept that promise and it is therefore mandated that all **clergy, employees, volunteers, seminarian candidates, Eucharistic Ministers, etc.** take part in our safe environment requirements which are: 1) all must be fingerprinted; 2) all must participate in the “Virtus” training program which is provided at many locations throughout the Archdiocese of Miami. Both the fingerprinting process and the training are offered free to each participant.

Our fingerprinting process is one of the most secured systems available, as we deal directly with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement who in turn works with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Once someone is fingerprinted it is sent to the FDLE and within a few days the results are returned. Anyone with a questionable item is notified and has the opportunity to meet with her/his supervisor or pastor to explain the offense.

The results sent to the Archdiocese are held in a specially-alarmed area, with other security aspects in place. The FDLE annually conducts an inspection of the Safe Environment Office that maintains the results of fingerprinting searches and our office continually receives the highest ranking for its security.

Adults are required to participate in both requirements to volunteer at any church or facility within the Archdiocese of Miami. Please feel free to contact Vicki Carpio, 305 762-1059, to schedule your fingerprinting appointments. If coming to the Pastoral Center is not an easy task, you may go to one of our remote locations which are listed on our website, www.miamiarch.org then click on the “Protecting God’s Children” link. In addition, please contact Jan Rayburn, Virtus training coordinator, at 305 762-1250, to register for a “Virtus” training session.