VIRTUS® Excellence Builds Trust

Empowering God's Children® Safe Environment Program

Information Sheet & Optional Opt-Out Form

Dear Parents and Guardians, August 2026

To assist in the monumental mission of protecting children from abuse, St. Eugene Parish is partnering with you to present a safe environment lesson to your youth within the youth program. It is our cherished role as adults to fully protect children. In addition, we must also teach children about their safety rights and boundaries, so that they have tools to protect themselves. This year, your child will experience one of the following age-appropriate lessons:

***Empowering God's Children* Program Information:**

A program for children presented by Lesson Leaders, each lesson includes an age-appropriate video component along with engaging learning activities. The material is designed to better equip your child to know their safety rights, recognize their boundaries, and to empower them to protect themselves when safe adults are not immediately available—and ultimately be safer from people who might want to harm them.

Lesson 1: *Physical Boundaries: Safe and Unsafe Touching Rules*
Lesson 2: *Safe Adults, Safe Touches and Special Safe Adults*
Lesson 3: *Boundaries: You Have Rights!*
Lesson 4: *Secrets, Surprises and Promises*
Lesson 5: *Being a Safe Friend*
Lesson 6: *Boundaries: Feelings and Facts*

Research shows that child sexual abuse prevention is most effective when there is a partnership between parents and Lesson Leaders, when material is reiterated in a school setting, and when the training is interactive and activity based. As the primary educators of your children, parents and guardians are encouraged to review these materials ahead of time. Please review the lessons on your own to start these vital safety conversations at home. Two additional resources may be available to you for review through this location upon request: *The Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide*, and *The Lesson Leader Orientation and Certification Module*. Thank you for your partnership with us to protect youth.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Date(s) of in-program training: January 17th & 24th, 2027

Makeup training dates: as needed
For questions, or to obtain access to the specific lesson and related activities, please communicate with: (Diana Hudock, Pastoral Assistant) 330-923-5244 or d_hudock@yahoo.com

Please note: Parents and Guardians may "opt out" youth from formal in-program safety lessons. *Please complete, detach and submit the form below only if you plan on offering the safe environment education at home and do not want your child to receive information via their youth program about ways to protect themselves. Your coordinator will reach out to you regarding relevant accommodations.*

TO OPT-OUT THE CHILD FROM THE SAFETY LESSON, RETURN THIS PORTION TO:

(Name / Location) _____ **BY *December 13th, 2026***

I, *(printed name of parent or guardian)* _____, have reviewed the actual safety lessons and **DO NOT give permission** for this location to present the *Empowering God's Children* Safety Lesson to my child *(printed name of child)* _____Grade _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____