



GREEK ORTHODOX  
ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

# Department of Youth Safety Compliance

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## Clergy-Laity Assembly 2020 Report

**To: His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America  
Primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America**  
**From: Rev. Fr. Earl Cantos, Director**  
**Date: September 9-10, 2020**

Not surprisingly, the Youth Safety Compliance Program of the Archdiocese has been impacted by the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (CoViD19). As you know, the Policies for the Safety of Children and Youth (the “Policies”) guide youth work at all levels of the Archdiocese; including every Metropolis and Parish, and their respective institutions, ministries, entities, organizations, programs, and events.

Even though CoViD19 has caused our Holy Archdiocese to go to virtual programing, the Training and Background Screen are still required and the PROGRAM IS IN EFFECT!

We, as Greek Orthodox Christians are still charged with protecting our youth.

### **Social Media Policies**

Because of CoViD19, Zoom and other social media platforms are being utilized like never before. Most likely, even after we are able to re-open, social media will continue to be an important part of our ministry mix. The Department of Youth Safety Compliance has been working with the General Counsel and the Archdiocesan Council Youth Committee in developing guidelines on how to conduct virtual youth meetings and how to report potential abuse. Keeping our children and youth safe is ongoing.

### **Looking to the Reopening of Our Church Youth Programs**

As of the date of this report, there is an expectation that youth programs may be able to begin sometime in the fall of 2020.

With this as a goal, this department is offering training to refresh the memories of those who have undertaken the responsibilities of being Parish Youth Safety Administrators around the Archdiocese.

The Department will offer Webinar Classes for Clergy, Parish Council Presidents and Parish Administrators in the near future on an Archdiocesan-wide basis. Additionally, the Department will prepare a recorded video on how to report abuse.

### **Virtual Sunday School Programing**

Both the Metropolis of Pittsburgh and the Metropolis of Detroit, have already had training courses in preparing Sunday School teachers for virtual classes. Our Department has been involved with their training and stand ready to assist the needs of all other Metropolises and parishes if requested.

**NEW -- Background Screening for the Archdiocesan Council,  
the Metropolis Councils and the Parish Councils**

The Department has been working with Mr. Constantine Caras and the Administration Committee in obtaining proposals for a potential Background Check Review Process for the members of the various councils which serve the Church at all levels of administration. Additionally, this would be an excellent opportunity for training courses to be developed to better understand the Uniform Parish Regulations.

Father Earl Cantos, the Director of this Department stands ready to assist and advise the Archdiocesan Council in what level of criminal background screening would best serve our Holy Archdiocese, if requested.

Respectfully Submitted By  
Father Earl Cantos