

## **R-3: A Resolution Calling Parishes to Adopt a Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth from Abuse**

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1. *Resolved*, that the Diocese of Ohio strongly encourages all parishes to adopt a policy prior to the 204<sup>th</sup>
  2. Diocesan Convention for the Protection of Children and Youth from Abuse that meets or exceeds the
  3. requirements of the diocesan policy approved by Diocesan Council on June 18, 2019;
  - 4.
  5. *Further Resolved*, that each parish provide a copy of the policy that it may adopt to the Office of the Bishop.
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  7. **Rationale:**
  8. The 2015 General Convention called for creation of an updated and expanded set of policies designed
  9. to create safe and welcoming space for all children and youth in our communities and those engaged in
  10. ministry with children and youth, and to prevent sexual abuse. (Resolution 2015-A073. Update Model
  11. Policies for Protection of Children and Youth; Resolution 2015-A074. Update the Safe Church Training
  12. Materials) That work culminated in a model policy presented at the 2018 General Convention. In the
  13. Diocese of Ohio, a task force adapted these policies which in June 2019 the Diocesan Council approved
  14. for Diocesan events. The Diocesan policies are mandated for diocesan-sponsored events such as Diocesan
  15. Convention, Winter Convocation, youth events, Bellwether Farm Summer Camp, etc.
  16. We encourage each parish to adopt a Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth from Abuse by the
  17. 204<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention.
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  19. To support parishes in fulfilling this recommendation, the task force has created a sample policy for
  20. congregations, which is available on the diocesan website.
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  22. Submitted by the Safeguarding Policy Task Force
  23. Rev. Anna Sutterisch, Canon for Christian Formation
  24. Ms. Mary Ann Semple, Diocesan Coordinator, Safeguarding Program
  25. Mr. Brandon Gooch, Director, Bellwether Farm Camp, Retreat, and Education Center
  26. Rev. Vincent Black, Rector, Church of the Ascension, Lakewood
  27. William A. Powel, III, Chancellor
  - 28.
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**Diocesan policies and the parish policy template can be found at [dohio.org/safeguarding](http://dohio.org/safeguarding).**