



DIOCESE OF GREAT FALLS-BILLINGS

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 30, 2023

TO: Priests, Deacons, Candidates for Ordination, Educators,
Diocesan/Parish/School Employees

FROM: Most Reverend Jeffrey M. Fleming, Bishop of Great Falls-Billings *JMF*

SUBJECT: Safe Environment Programs and Background Evaluations

In keeping with the regulations outlined in the Charter and Norms for the Protection of Children and Young People, Article 12, The Diocese of Great Falls-Billings has implemented the following programs: Circle of Grace and Circles of Care.

Both programs address personal safety issues for children and youth and are presented at age-appropriate levels. They are presented annually to all students through high school who are enrolled in diocesan schools and religious education classes.

For Children and Youth through high school: The first approved program is the **Circle of Grace** developed by the Diocese of Omaha, NE: www.cogpartners.org. This is a comprehensive, age appropriate and ready to teach program for all grades. Includes educational information for parents. The program is offered in Spanish upon request.

For Children and Youth through high school: Secondly, the **Circles of Care** curriculum addresses age-appropriate personal safety issues for children and youth introduced in the context of Catholic Moral teaching. Circles of Care curriculum were originally developed by the Diocese of Manchester, NH. Resources are made available through the Diocesan site at: www.diocesegfb.org (Safe Environment Training).

Background Check Evaluations: our diocese utilizes the services of "Selection.com" of Cincinnati, OH to conduct a Social Security Trace, a Court Records Search (Statewide MT or Previous Residence State including felony and misdemeanor 7 years), and a National Criminal Offender Search.



Bishop's Livestock Brand