

L.I.F.E. Program FAQ's

1. Why do we need L.I.F.E.?

The L.I.F.E. program was written by Sr. Kieran Sawyer and Dr. Kathie Amide. It is provided to parishes and Catholic schools to help parents form their children for healthy relationships and to avoid sexual abuse. It is a response to the *USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* (approved in 2005 and revised in 2011) and the *2008 Catechetical Formation in Chaste Living*.

2. What formats can parishes and schools use to deliver the L.I.F.E. program?

There are three ways to deliver the L.I.F.E. program:

1. Meeting with parents and students (this is the model that was presented by Sr. Sawyer)
2. Classroom delivery; these are the same basic materials, but adapted for use by the teacher / catechist / presenter in individual classrooms or as part of a multi-parish L.I.F.E. session
3. Materials (either parent meeting or classroom model) may be used by parents to present and discuss with their children at home; this model is useful for homeschooling families or families who miss a group L.I.F.E. session

3. Can a parish or school use an outside presenter to lead a L.I.F.E. session?

An outside presenter (such as a local nurse, social worker, or child safety expert) may be used to facilitate the L.I.F.E. program. This presenter must complete the Safe & Sacred and Learning about L.I.F.E. trainings (Overview and Age Group).

4. Who can sign the L.I.F.E. course permission form for a child? Does it have to be a parent or is the party responsible for bringing the child to the program acceptable?

The custodial parent/legal guardian must sign the form granting permission for the child to participate in the L.I.F.E. program.

5. Can anyone over the age of 18 attend the parent portion of the L.I.F.E. course with a child, i.e. grandparents, volunteers, siblings, etc.?

A custodial parent/legal guardian must attend the parent portion of the L.I.F.E. program for each child if the parish or school is utilizing the family model of the L.I.F.E. program.

6. Since the L.I.F.E. program contains one set of materials for every two grade levels, should we repeat the lesson for the same children in the second year?

Each young person should receive training every year. Therefore, we recommend either adapting the L.I.F.E. program during alternate years or selecting another resource. These additional lessons may be used to cover material not included in the L.I.F.E. lessons (e.g., internet safety). Alternate lessons may be selected from the curriculum framework or a local resource.

- The diocesan Protecting God’s Children program is still available on the website (www.dol-in.org/protecting-gods-children-resources). You are encouraged to review the curriculum framework and resources to supplement your program as needed.
- Faith and Safety (www.faithandsafety.org) is a joint website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America providing information and resources on digital safety.
- Netsmartz (www.netsmartz.org) and OnGuardOnline (www.onguardonline.gov) provide a wide variety of free safety resources for all age groups and they are highly recommended. Because they are not faith-based, we advise that you review materials before offering them to teachers, catechists, or families to ensure that they do not run counter to Church teachings.

The L.I.F.E. program offers a single curriculum for high school students, with an optional “catch up” version for students who have never participated in the L.I.F.E. program.

7. How can households where the number of children is greater than the number of parents attend L.I.F.E. parent education classes with each child?

The L.I.F.E. program offers three models, only one of which requires parent attendance. The parent participation model is highly recommended, but may not be feasible for many parents. If the parent-student model is selected, a parent must attend class with every child in the family. This will require the parish to schedule L.I.F.E. classes on a rotating schedule, which may include evenings, to allow parents of multiple children to attend class with each child.

If the parent participation model is not a feasible option for the parents of your students, the classroom delivery model may be selected.

8. Who should be trained in the L.I.F.E. Classroom model?

All pastors, teachers, catechists, staff and volunteers who will be teaching L.I.F.E. in a classroom setting must complete the training module for L.I.F.E. Classroom model online. They should complete both the Overview training and the training for the grade level(s) they catechize.

Please note: All catechists and teachers must complete Safe & Sacred safe environment training prior to participating in the L.I.F.E. training program.

9. How do I access the online training and materials for the L.I.F.E. program?

Log on to www.safeandsacred-dol-in.org. In the right-hand side bar select the L.I.F.E. model your parish has chosen (Family or Classroom) and enroll in the course. The training will then be available to you under “My Courses.” Materials are available once the individual has completed the overview training.

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