

## Request for Information

**Title:** The Effectiveness of Safe Environment Training Programs for Children and Adults

**Sponsors:** National Review Board  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
Washington, DC

**Mail Proposals:** Deacon Bernie Nojadera  
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**Due:** February 29, 2012

### Introduction and purpose of the RFI:

The National Review Board of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) invites information related to the measurement of the effectiveness of safe environment programs for both children and adults. The National Review Board encourages those who have already completed pertinent studies of the effectiveness of safe environment programs for either or both children and adults to bring them to our attention.

The National Review Board was formed by the USCCB under Article 9 of the *Charter of the Protection of Children and Young People*, approved by the USCCB at its General Meeting in Dallas, Texas in June 2002. It has overseen the completion of the *Nature and Scope of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests* and the *Causes and Context of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests in the United States 1950-2010*. More information is available at <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/>

The *Charter* requires dioceses/eparchies to provide safe environment training for clergy, employees, volunteers and children. These training programs are a component in the audit done to measure compliance with the *Charter*. Dioceses/eparchies spend close to \$20,000,000 per year in child protection efforts such as safe environment training programs, coordinators and background checks. The National Review Board is interested in learning how effective these programs are in preventing child sexual abuse. In addition the National Review Board is interested in learning about risk assessments of facilities with particular attention to children's environments in parishes and schools.

## **Research Objectives:**

The National Review Board is requesting information to more fully understand the state of the science of child sexual abuse prevention education in order to determine the effectiveness of programs. This in turn will be used to enhance the training requirements of the *Charter*. The National Review Board hopes to undertake a comprehensive study of the effectiveness of the various safe environment training programs in the near future.

The National Review Board would like information on:

- Effectiveness studies already completed on child sexual abuse prevention efforts commonly referred to as safe environment training programs
- Ideal ways to measure the effectiveness of child sexual abuse prevention programs for both children and adults
- Best practices on how to perform risk assessment around sexual abuse prevention of facilities that provide services to children and young people
- What theoretical frameworks exist that inform how best to study child sexual abuse prevention and if you have found these frameworks helpful when used to approach the study of these programs
- What methodologies exist that should be part of any credible study of the effectiveness of child sexual abuse prevention programs
- What are the “core elements” that are essential for children training programs and is there scientific evidence to support the inclusion of these core elements.
- Similarly, what are the core elements for adult training programs and are these based on evidence
- Insight into other organizations that have conducted studies of child sexual abuse prevention programs
- Identification of essential and feasible outcomes and process measurements
- The effectiveness of online training as opposed to live training
- Optimal ways to assess client buy-in and satisfaction with the programs

## **Eligibility Requirements:**

We request that you provide us with information in a typical academic format with references to support the content provided. Project directors should have appropriate academic or professional experience in child welfare, evaluation and measurement, pedagogy or related fields.

## **Special Requirements:**

There is no requirement that the research was conducted by Catholic individuals or institutions, but studies should have appropriate applicability to church safe environment programs.