

Sample Letter to Parents Choosing to Opt-Out of Safe Environment Presentations

<Parish or School Letterhead>

Name
Address
City, State, Zip

<Date>

Dear Parents,

Each year, all the Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings are required to offer safe environment presentations to the children and youth that attend our parishes and schools. These programs are designed to help educate our young people with regard to safe environments and how to protect themselves against physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

The Diocese of Great Falls-Billings recognizes that parents are the primary educators of their children and have the God-given right and responsibility to educate their children in the way they see fit and appropriate. As parents, you have the right to allow your children to participate in the safe environment presentations or to have them not attend these presentations. Since you have chosen to not have your child/children attend these presentations, we would like to extend the opportunity for you to utilize the videos or other programming material that has been used in the parish or school's safe environment presentations. To obtain these materials, contact the parish (if your child attends a parish religious education program) or the school (if your child attends Catholic school). The parish or school may have used videos available through our diocesan media center. If this is the case, please feel free to check out the videos by contacting Ms. Vicki Albro at: 406-727-6683 or on our toll-free number: 1-800-332-9998.

Thank you for your help in educating our children with regard to safe environments and child sexual abuse.

Sincerely,

<Name>
<Title>