

Sample Safe Environment Presentation Initial Parent Letter

<Parish or School Letterhead>

<Date>

Dear Parent,

The United States Catholic Bishops have mandated that all Catholic schools, youth programs and religious education programs offer safe environment presentations designed to help educate our young people with respect to safe environments and how to protect themselves against physical, emotional and sexual abuse. To comply with this mandate in the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, these instructional presentations must be provided to all Preschool – Grade 12 students on a yearly basis. Accordingly <Name of Parish/School> will provide instruction to children and youth to help them understand how to protect themselves against physical, emotional and sexual abuse. The date(s) for the children's instruction will be _____ . There will be a make-up session for students who are absent on the date of instruction.

Parents will have the opportunity to view the safe environment instructional materials beginning <date>. Please contact the parish/school office for details.

It is important to note that while adults can make every effort to provide a safe environment for children, they cannot always be there to protect children from exposure to dangerous situations. However, by working together and using the materials in this program, parents and educators can help provide the guidance that children need to protect themselves.

If you do NOT wish for your child to participate, please complete the attached Parent Opt-Out Form and return it to the parish/school before the date of your child's instruction. If you chose this option, other educational programming will be provided for your child during the safe environment presentations.

Sincerely,

Name

Title