



**Knights of
Columbus®**

REPORT OF THE STATE ADVOCATE
District of Columbia State Council

125th State Convention - April 27–28, 2024

I. Procedural and Disciplinary Inquiries

As of the date of this report, no disciplinary inquiries have been lodged with the State Council.

Throughout the past year, I have endeavored to provide assistance on procedural and training matters. I have assisted District Deputies and Grand Knights with Safe Environment training questions as they arise. Such questions have principally involved requests for the Supreme Council's Office of Youth Protection to re-set (or re-send) log-in credentials to council officers/directors for Praesidium Academy.

II. Safe Environment Training Compliance

The Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program is intended to protect youth from the risks of abuse and neglect. The program consists of a fraternal leader screening process, child abuse awareness training, and a reporting procedure in the event of possible misconduct. Certain officers and directors are **required** to undergo Safe Environment training and, depending on their role, to provide authorization for a background check.

As of the date of this report, **eleven (11) councils**, or 50% of the jurisdiction (not including suspended councils), are **fully compliant** with all Safe Environment requirements. Those councils include the following:

- 224 - Washington
- 353 - Keane
- 433 - Potomac
- 4944 - Shrine
- 6375 - Georgetown Univ.
- 7530 - St. Josaphat
- 9542 - Catholic Univ. of America
- 11302 - O'Boyle
- 13242 - George Washington Univ.
- 16215 - Sacred Heart
- 16773 - St. John Paul II

The distribution of compliant councils by district is as follows:

- District 1 - 1 council (17%)
- District 2 - 2 councils (33%)
- District 3 - 3 councils (60%)
- District 4 - 5 councils (100%)

Six (6) councils are **partially compliant**. "Partial compliance" means that all Safe Environment positions have been appointed, but some individuals have not finished the required training and/or background check.

Finally, **five (5) councils** are **non-compliant**. Non-compliance, in this context, means that a council has failed to fill all required appointments (*viz.*, Grand Knight, Program Director, Community Director, and Family Director). Of these non-compliant councils, four have failed to file a Service Program Personnel Report, and one has also failed to file a Report of Officers Chosen (or, specifically, to report the election of a Grand Knight).

Based on my conversations with District Deputies and Grand Knights, the failure to achieve compliance with the Safe Environment program requirements is largely due to the inability to fill leadership positions with quality

appointments. In a few limited instances, compliance was a challenge because appointees did not regularly use the Internet/e-mail, or they encountered difficulties with securing an invitation to the training platform.

Dated: April 15, 2024

Respectfully submitted,



Ryan P. Mulvey, Esq., PGK, FDD
State Advocate
State Online Membership Coordinator