

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES
VIRTUS® RE-CERTIFICATION POLICY
(Revised – 2019) copies in Article 12 of *Safeguard the Children Parish Audit Manual*)

All clergy, staff and volunteers who previously participated in the VIRTUS® Protecting God’s Children are required to be **re-certified every four years**. Recertification must take place on/or before the expiration date on the participant’s last certificate. If they pass 30 days beyond the expiration date, he/she does not qualify for “Option #3” or “Option #4” and must retake the 3 hr. “Protecting God’s Children.”

<u>Protecting God’s Children Year</u>	<u>Re-Certification Year</u>
2015	2019
2016	2020
2017	2021
2018	2022
2019	2023

Options for Re-Certification:

Option #1: VIRTUS® “Keeping the Promise Alive”

Most participants qualify to attend the 1 ½ hour VIRTUS® "Keeping the Promise Alive" Re-Certification. This session reviews the “Five Steps” for protecting children and young people from child sexual abuse and helps participants to explore ways that their parish/school/community has become a safer place because these steps have been implemented. The program also presents new ideas of how we can work together to continue to keep our children and youth safe in the future.

Option #2: “VIRTUS® Protecting God’s Children”

This session is for participants whose certificate has expired! However, any participant who wishes may repeat the original 3-hour VIRTUS® “Protecting God’s Children” for Re-Certification.

Option #3: Reading VIRTUS® “Protecting God’s Children for Adults” Online Training Bulletins

Participants who registered on VIRTUS® Online immediately following their VIRTUS® “Protecting God’s Children” session and have read at least 48 “Protecting God’s Children for Adults” training bulletins during the 4 years since their last VIRTUS® Training, qualify for an Option #3 Re-Certification. If a participant thinks he or she qualifies, please email Annette Vichot: avichot@la-archdiocese.org with their name, address, parish, region and phone number. Please put “**Option #3 Re-Certification**” on the subject line of the email.

Option #4: Completion of the Online Mandated Reporting Course, [Reporting Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect](#)

Developed with the Los Angeles Police Department and Child Protective Services in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Provides practical information about when and how to report suspected abuse, takes 1 ½ hour and can be completed over multiple sessions. Course completion certificate included.

Important Notice

Participants need to keep the original VIRTUS® Certificate(s). This is proof of training. Please give a copy of the certificate(s) to the parish or school office where you work or volunteer as proof of certification.

Please address any questions to Joan Vienna: jvienna@la-archdiocese.org (213) 637-7227.