

Safe Environment Program

With thousands of ministries served, we are committed to helping Catholic parishes and dioceses maintain a safe environment so you can focus on fulfilling your mission.



Importance of Risk Management for Parishes and Dioceses

No parish or diocese is exempt from harmful acts—including abuse, abductions, crimes, theft, embezzlement, and more. Background checks combined with rigorous training and procedural standards create a safeguard for your parish that is much more likely to deter predators.

That’s why it’s valuable to have a full-featured solution in place to help protect your parish.

Risk management isn’t just about avoiding risks. It requires taking an informed approach to identify and respond to risks in a way that protects the parish and dioceses, as well as implementing resources and strategies to create a safe church environment.

Reducing risks within your ministry comes down to identifying your risks and then developing and implementing an effective risk management plan.



Quick Facts

- **4 out of 10** churches are not running the correct background check.
- One of the top reasons churches go to court is because of sexual misconduct.
- **32%** of Americans admitted to lying on their resume according to a 2021 study by [resumebuilder.com](https://www.resumebuilder.com).
- The United States has some of the highest recidivism rates in the world. According to the National Institute of Justice, almost **44%** of criminals released return before the first year out of prison.



All-In-One Solution

Our all-in-one Safe Environment Program (SEP) is designed especially for parishes and dioceses. Monitor background checks, and assignment activity in a centralized database—all integrated through your ParishSOFT ChMS.



Safe Environment Program

The ParishSOFT Safe Environment Program is an integrated solution within ParishSOFT church management that provides comprehensive safety efforts for Catholic parishes and dioceses. It goes beyond isolated background screenings and introduces an ongoing protection program that is easily monitored from within your church management system.

Whether clergy or lay ministers, volunteers, or paid personnel, it's important to know and track which requirements have been met. View completed trainings and background screenings for individuals. Review all historical assignment activity within the SEP.

This critical tool helps to protect Catholic communities while seamlessly syncing with the centralized parishioner database.



Features: What Parishes and Dioceses Gain from our Safe Environment Program

- Customized requirements—screenings, applications, trainings, approvals, reviews, USCCB, etc.—based on individuals' assigned roles.
- Tracking of status, completions, errors, issues, expirations, and re-certifications of requirements.
- Automatic calculated counts required for annual USCCB National Audit.
- Automated notifications of new individuals, requirement completions, and issues.
- Integration with Protect My Ministry for screening submissions and status updates.
- Historical records of role start/end dates, requirement completions, and issues



Benefits

- Centralized Administration – Track the status of overdue requirements, training, errors, issues, expirations, and re-certifications from a single dashboard.
- Role-Based Customization – View customized requirements based on an individual’s assigned roles.
- Continuous Compliance – Automatically calculate counts for the annual requirement of the USCCB National Audit.
- Seamless Integration – ParishSOFT ChMS and Protect My Ministry work together to provide screening submissions and status updates.
- Data Reporting – Historical data is stored and updated.
- Efficiency – Integrated background checks save administrative time.

Our team of in-house FCRA-certified criminal researchers and access to proprietary database information, that is updated daily, provides greater control during the screening and reverification processes.



Client Testimonial

“The new ParishSoft Safe Environment Program is both intuitive and functional. The database stands apart from others by providing a detailed history of assignments for all persons profiled. This tremendous feature allows for looking back at the history of employment or volunteer positions of any person that may be of concern. If a child is harmed, ParishSoft Assignment History makes it possible to look for other locations that the person in question may have been active in the past.” - Glenn Goldapp, systems coordinator for the Diocese of Corpus Christi.

Less than 10% of parishes and dioceses are actively rescreening their volunteers and staff annually.



Background checks are the 1st step of many:



Define protocols and processes designed to indicate which background check is right for each applicant based on information, behavior or role at the church.



Rescreen all volunteers and staff at a minimum of once per year; leverage an integrated system to ensure records and compliance are up to date.



If the applicant is coming from another state, conduct a background check that queries the previous address.