**The AoA Safe Environment Program and Background Checks**

The mission of the Safe Environment Office at the Archdiocese of Atlanta is to ensure that children, young people, and vulnerable individuals (elderly, disabled) who worship, study, or participate in activities sponsored therein can do so in the safest and most secure setting possible. We are responsible for implementing and overseeing the full Archdiocesan response to the [Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/charter.cfm) (Charter). We strive to comply with Articles 12 and 13 of the Charter which requires every diocese in the United States to maintain Safe Environment programs and to perform background screenings. Article 12 is applied with the Safe Environment programs in place to help educate involved parties on how they can contribute with the **promise to protect** our children, young people, and vulnerable individuals from abuse. Furthermore, Article 13 is also applied by performing background screenings on all those individuals working with children, young people, and vulnerable individuals.

Safe Environment: <https://archatl.com/ministries-services/safe-environment/>

Volunteers: <https://archatl.com/ministries-services/safe-environment/volunteers/>

The following items **must** be complete before a volunteer can participate in any part of a Ministry program that deals with children, youth or vulnerable individuals.

1. **Volunteer Application** – completed
2. **Sterling Background Check** – completed & cleared
3. **Attend the VIRTUS PGC Training** – completed
4. **Safe Environment Acknowledgment of Receipt of Compliance Forms** - completed and turned in to the Parish Office contact: Eileen Kehres at ekehres@judeatl.com

**The following ministries in all communities (English, Brazilian & Spanish) are required to abide by the guidelines outlined above.** If you have any questions, please contact Kerry Arias, Director of Parish Life at karias@judeatl.com or Eileen Kehres at ekehres@judeatl.com

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| Altar Servers - Leaders  | Civil Air Patrol - Leaders | Boy Scout Leaders & Parent Volunteers |
| Cub Scout Leaders & Parent Volunteers | CLOW (Children’s Liturgy of the Word) Volunteers | Drivers of the Elderly |
| EMHC to the Sick | Jaguar Sports – Coaches & Leaders | Knights of Columbus Rosary Group |
| Mission Ministry | St. Vincent de Paul | Youth Lector Leaders |
| Catechesis of the Good Shephard | Littlest Angels | PSR (Parish School of Religion) |
| Special Needs Religious Education | EDGE – Core members & Volunteers | Life Teen – Core members & Volunteers |
| Teen Lector Program | Teen Usher Program | Stephen Ministry |