



## High School Training Program

### Twelfth Grade Lesson – You're Legal, What Now?

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#### Introduction

Introduce yourself and any additional staff that are present to assist with the presentation.

Lead the group in prayer.

Explain the purpose of this training session.

#### Training session goals:

1. Review basic personal safety lessons learned in Catholic grade schools.
2. Legal consequences of turning 18 years of age
3. Discuss and the college/young adult dating culture
4. Define sexual harassment

#### Review basic personal safety lessons learned in Catholic grade schools.

- God created you and loves you. God made your body
  - You each have personal space that is to be respected by others.
  - You should treat yourselves and others with respect and care (the golden rule).
  - Some touches are safe, some are unsafe.
  - You have internal warning signs that let you know when you are in danger.
  - If you are ever in danger, are not being respected, or are being touched in an unsafe way, you should get away. Sexually using or abusing another person is morally and legally wrong and will not be tolerated.
  - There are adults in your life to care for and protect you.
  - Get help from one of these adults. Keep telling and asking until you get the help you need.
  - Where to go for help at our school.... (fill in with names)
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## **Topic: Legal consequences of turning 18 years of age**

Now that you are a legal adult there are different possible consequences

Youthful legal misadventures that once might have been met with parental wrath and a stern lecture from the local police can land an 18-year-old in jail. Whether it's throwing toilet paper up in a neighbor's trees or shoplifting even inexpensive items, these acts may have previously landed you with a slap on the wrist, but as soon as you become an official adult, the whole game changes. Even some minor drug possession charges that may have been overlooked at 17 can lead to jail time at 18.

Once you become an adult, any violation of criminal or civil law will result in your treatment as a legal adult. Your name will not be shielded from the public. You will be solely accountable for your actions. For example, sexting is illegal in all states. "Sexting," is defined as "sending nude, sexual or indecent photos (or 'selfies') using a computer, mobile phone or other mobile device." In some cases, it can also include written messages or even videos.

Indiana law: Photographing or disseminating images of someone younger than 18 engaged in sexual conduct is a Class C felony, and penalties include at least two (and up to eight) years in prison, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both. It is a Class D felony to possess sexual images of a child who is younger than 16 years old. Penalties include at least six months in jail (and up to three years in prison), a fine of up to \$10,000, or both. However, minors may be subject to different or reduced penalties when tried in juvenile court, where judges have wider discretion in sentencing.

At 18, you will be tried as an adult; your criminal record will be available for employers, colleges, or others to see if they legally search. There are consequences for your actions.

This is one example. The circumstances will also apply to driving while under the influence of alcohol, possession of illegal drugs, theft, and any other illegal activity.

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## **Topic: The college/young adult dating culture**

The pervasive attitude that is portrayed in media is not helpful or healthy. The "hook-up" culture is one in which two adults do not take the time to come to know one another as friends. Nor do they come to know one another intellectually, emotionally or spiritually. They do not develop a sense of caring for the other and the other's needs. Rather, the mindset is to enjoy a quick sexual fling in order to fulfill some physical desire. Many people



cover up any feelings of hurt and loss with bravado, but the emotional wounds are within and may be deep.

It is very challenging to be countercultural. However, Jesus was very countercultural in his life. He loved sinners and hung out with those cast aside. Draw strength and comfort from him.

Protecting yourself in dating relationships is very important. While it takes a certain amount of emotional vulnerability to begin a dating relationship, the best course of action is to go slowly. Become good friends as you date. Learn about the whole person: mind, spirit, emotions, and body.

*"The best love is a slow love." Most Rev. John M. D'Arcy*

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### **Topic: Harassment & Sexual Harassment**

Harassment, assault, and abuse all take place when the perpetrator takes advantage of another by exploiting the power differential between them. Many relationships do not have an equal power distribution, for example, teacher – student, coach – player, parent – child, boss – employee.

In these relationships, it is the responsibility of the person with more power to develop the other person and assist them in achieving the goals of their shared activity.

Milder forms of harassment if not challenged may lead to more serious harassment, assault or abuse

Sexual Harassment – US EEOC definition (United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission)

- Offensive remarks about a person's sex, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or unwelcome sexual behavior
- Makes you feel uncomfortable, scared and/or confused
- Interferes with your ability in school, extracurriculars, or work
- Differs from flirting, playing around, or other behaviors that you welcome or enjoy
- Under reported – most times the victim is embarrassed to report, afraid no one will believe him/her, or scared about retribution



Sexual harassment is:

- Illegal
- Sometimes considered more of a civil rights issue than a criminal act, especially with the milder forms of harassment such as verbal sexual harassment
- Violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Can be verbal: jokes, remarks, rumors, or comments about your body
- Can be physical: grabbing, rubbing, flashing, touching, mooning, pinching
- Can be visual: obscene gestures, displays of naked pictures, picture of sex-related objects

There are two types of sexual harassment: Quid pro quo and hostile environment

Quid Pro Quo – defined as a favor or advantage granted or expected in return for something. In this setting, it means that another person causes you to believe that you must submit to unwelcome sexual conduct to participate in some activity, or gain something that you want

Hostile environment – severe, persistent or pervasive unwelcome sexual conduct by a person that creates a threatening, abusive or intimidating environment; words or conduct of a sexual nature that offends, stigmatizes, demeans, frightens, or threatens you because of your sex

Examples include:

- touching, pinching, grabbing another person
- cornering a person or leaning over a person; invading personal space
- sending sexual notes or pictures
- writing sexual graffiti
- making suggestive or sexual gestures, jokes, comments, looks or noises
- spreading sexual rumors or making sexual propositions
- pulling off your own or another's clothing
- being forced to kiss another person or touch them in a sexual way
- attempted rape and rape

The harasser need not agree that the behavior fits the definition. The target alone defines the harassment as sexual. Note: Bullying is usually defined as nonsexual harassment.

Grooming which we have talked about in previous years and the tactics used to groom another are forms of sexual harassment.



How is harassment different than sexual abuse? Harassment is a form of sexual abuse. When an adult commits sexual abuse against a minor, we are obligated to report it to law enforcement. When an adult harasses another adult, the one receiving the harassment must contact law enforcement. If one minor student harasses another minor student, that should be handled by the school administration with possible involvement of law enforcement depending upon the severity.

### Indiana Legal Code

State laws vary from state to state as to how to define certain actions and to what degree that they are illegal

- **Harassment** Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "harassment" means conduct directed toward a victim that includes but is not limited to repeated or continuing impermissible contact that would cause a reasonable person to suffer emotional distress and that actually causes the victim to suffer emotional distress.
- **Sexual assault** Sec. 8 For purposes of [IC 5-26.5-2-2](#), "sexual assault" means conduct that constitutes:
  - a misdemeanor or felony under [IC 35-42-4](#) (sex crimes) or [IC 35-46-1-3](#) (incest);
  - Sex crimes: rape, child molesting, child exploitation, sexual battery, incest, and more
- **Sexual contact** Sec. 3.5. As used in this chapter, "sexual contact" means:
  - sexual intercourse (as defined in [IC 35-31.5-2-302](#));
  - other sexual conduct (as defined in [IC 35-31.5-2-221.5](#)); or
  - any fondling or touching intended to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of either the individual performing the fondling or touching, or the individual being fondled or touched

### Title IX

- A federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, including on the basis of sex stereotypes, in education programs and activities. All public schools and any private schools receiving federal funds must comply with Title IX.
- Title IX of the Civil Rights Code states that all students are to be guaranteed an education in a safe environment which is free from sexual harassment.
- In addition, many forms of bullying or cyberbullying are sex-based harassment that is prohibited under Title IX. For example, prohibited harassment may include behaviors such as using cell phones or the internet to target students by calling them sexually



charged epithets like “slut” or “whore”; spreading sexual rumors; rating students on sexual activity or performance; disseminating compromising photographs or videos of a student; or circulating, showing, or creating emails or websites of a sexual nature. This kind of conduct may be prohibited harassment if it is severe, persistent, or pervasive.

Sexual harassment is also found in professional workplaces. There are laws against it that protect individuals. But it must be reported to some authority who can stop the harassment and prevent it from reoccurring.

*Insert sexual harassment policy for the school here....*

### How to prevent sexual harassment?

#### Role of school leadership

1. Define what is not acceptable
2. Inform all persons of the policy including the consequences for harassment
3. Train adults (teachers, staff) of the policy, how to identify sexual harassment, and how to respond
4. Train students to know what sexual harassment is and how to report

#### Your role -- What you should or can do to stop sexual harassment from happening to you or another student

- Do not ignore sexual harassment.
- Tell the person you do not like their behavior and ask them to stop. If you feel you can't tell them directly, write them a note.
- You need to tell your parents or guardians and/or tell a teacher, counselor or administrator at school.
- Talk to someone you trust about how you are feeling. Friends, parents or guardians, siblings, a trusted teacher, counselor or administrator can be helpful and provide the support that you need.
- Tell your teacher, counselor or principal that you are being sexually harassed. If you are not comfortable doing this, your parents or guardians can do this.
- Even though you are a legal adult, the school administration still cares for you and will assist you with issues related to these subjects. You still have us as your trusted adults.

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Lead students in group exercise using handout.