

HOW TO REPORT ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

If you have any questions about reporting, contact the parish Safe Environments Coordinator, Mitzi Weaver at 681-6350 x248

MANDATORY REPORTERS

Please note: Mandatory reporters are legally required to report allegations of sexual abuse. Failure to report can result in legal action.

Who are Mandatory Reporters?

- School teachers, counselors, principals, assistant principals
- Child care workers in day care centers and foster care facilities
- Clergy, except where information is received from the alleged perpetrator during clergy/penitent privilege
- Social or public assistance workers
- Substance abuse treatment staff
- Police or law enforcement officers
- Undertakers, funeral home directors and employees
- Persons responsible for processing films
- Judges
- Computer technicians
- Physicians, nurses, dentists, optometrists
- Medical examiners and coroners, and their employees
- Any other medical, emergency medical services, mental health, or allied health professionals
- Christian Science practitioners, religious healers

If you are a mandatory reporter and have reasonable cause to believe that sexual abuse has occurred, you must follow these steps:

Remember: Report immediately! There is no investigation by you or anyone else at the parish/school level.

1. If you suspect abuse has occurred within a family, contact the Department of Social Services within the county the abuse took place, and then contact the Diocese at 843-853-2130, ext. 206.
2. If the alleged abuse involved Diocesan personnel (priests, deacons, teachers, employees, or volunteers) do the following, after contacting the local police department.
 - A. Call the Diocesan Office and Child Protection Services at 843-853-2130, ext. 206..
 - B. Immediately fill out the Sexual Abuse Report Form (this document can be located at: www.catholic-doc.org) Sexual Abuse Policies and Procedures, and fax it to: 843-723-1649 (a confidential, dedicated fax line).

NON-MANDATORY REPORTERS

Anyone not included on the list of mandatory reporters is considered to be a non-mandatory reporter. We all have a moral obligation to protect children and vulnerable adults. If you are a Non-Mandatory Reporter and have reasonable cause to believe that sexual abuse has occurred, you must immediately report the information to the Diocese.

Remember: Report immediately! There is no investigation by you or anyone else at the parish/school level.

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*Promise to Protect
Pledge to Heal*

