

HOW TO REPORT AN ALLEGATION OF SEXUAL OR PHYSICAL ABUSE

If you have a reasonable suspicion of abuse, neglect or maltreatment of a child, youth or at-risk adult, report it immediately. Regardless of where it may have occurred or by whom, contact Child Protective or Welfare Services where it occurred and they will be able to make an appropriate response.

In the United States, for information on how to report child abuse in your state go to CMGconnect.org. Click on “State Reporting Agencies” and you will be brought to contact information and links to Child and Family Welfare Services state by state. Please note that it is a requirement of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People to report all allegations of abuse of a child under age 18 and many dioceses routinely report all allegations to authorities regardless of when the abuse occurred.

In Canada, contact your local Children’s Aid Society. See below for contact information.

If you are in doubt as to who to contact or whether a crime has been committed, call your local police department. In case of an emergency, call 911. For further information, you can also contact the Ordinariate’s Safe Environment Coordinator.

If the alleged abuse involved Church Personnel, (priests, deacons, employees, teachers or volunteers), **after contacting the authorities**, contact the Ordinariate Safe Environment Coordinator.

Lynn Schmidt

Safe Environment Coordinator

The Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter

713-609-9292, SafeEnvironment@ordinariate.net

The point of contact within the Ordinariate for the receipt of complaints and allegations related to the abuse of children, youth and at-risk adults by Church Personnel, regardless of the current age of the person making the report, is the Safe Environment Coordinator. Contact information for the Safe Environment Coordinator is provided on the Ordinariate’s website: www.ordinariate.net. All complaints or allegations involving Church Personnel must be made to this Coordinator, even if such have also been made to the pastor, a leader of an Ordinariate or parish activity, a school employee or to civil authorities.

It is the policy of the Ordinariate to respond promptly and with compassion to all complaints or allegations of abuse. Be aware that if you report abuse to use and have not been in contact with authorities, the Ordinariate will report the matter to local law enforcement and/or child protection authorities. For the information to be reported, to the extent it is known, see Appendix B form provided.

The healing of victims, their families, and their community from the effects of sexual abuse begins when the allegations of abuse are received. When victims decide to disclose abuse, it is important that the response they receive is compassionate and non-judgmental.

The response to any allegation of sexual abuse of a child, youth or at-risk adult will be governed by the Gospel values of dignity, compassion, understanding, and justice. Anyone receiving an allegation of abuse will respond in a pastoral, supportive manner, leaving investigative concerns to those who serve in that role.

An allegation will be received without initial judgment as to the truth of the complaint. No intimation of blame will be made by the initial recipient of information. Individuals making allegations will be supported positively in their decision to disclose.

The Ordinariate will arrange for pastoral, psychological, and spiritual support not only to the alleged victim, but to the accused cleric and the communities impacted by the allegation, keeping in mind that both confidentiality and legal concerns may limit the amount of information that can be made available to any party.

Children's Aid Society by location - Canada

St. John Henry Newman

Ministry of Children and Family Development Victoria Office

Address: 2814 Nanaimo St, Victoria, BC V8T 4W9

Phone: (250) 953-3711

Child Protection

Address: 2955 Jutland Rd, Victoria, BC V8T 5J9

Phone: (250) 952-6062

Address: 22323 119 Ave, Maple Ridge, BC V2X 2Z2

Phone: (604) 466-7300

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St. John the Evangelist

Children's Services

Government office in Calgary, Alberta

Address: 1240 Kensington Rd NW, Calgary, AB T2N 3P7

Phone: (403) 297-6100

St. Benedict

Alberta Child Welfare

State government office in Edmonton, Alberta

Address: 10242 105 St NW, Edmonton, AB T5J 3L5

Phone: (780) 493-7511

Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-387-5437 (KIDS)

Good Shepherd

Durham Children's Aid Society (CAS)

1320 Airport Blvd

(905) 433-1551

St. Thomas More

Children's Aid Society of Toronto

Non-profit organization in Toronto, Ontario

Address: 30 Isabella St, Toronto, ON M4Y 1N1

(416) 924-4646

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services

Youth social services organization in Ottawa, Ontario

Address: 347 Preston St, Ottawa, ON K1S 2T7

Phone: (613) 234-1188

Province: Ontario

The New Brunswick Child and Youth Advocate
Government office in Fredericton, New Brunswick
(506) 453-2789

Nova Scotia Child Protection

Address: 6009 Quinpool Rd, Halifax, NS B3K 5J7

Phone: (902) 425-5420