

✚ Every person has the right to be respected and treated with the dignity befitting a child of God.

✚ Every person has the right to have appropriate boundaries respected.

✚ Every person has the right to challenge any behavior or comment that is offensive or inappropriate.

✚ Every person has the responsibility to protect the safety of children, families, women and men, and to promote healing where there is injury with firm justice and mercy towards all.

"We all must take reasonable steps together to protect all of God's children. Through our faith in Christ and His Church, and with restored trust in the Church by our commitment to safe environments, we can build a future full of hope."

-Our Promise to Protect...
Policies on Appropriate Conduct
September 2005

To report an incident of sexual abuse by a priest or deacon, please contact:

Ann Fox
Diocesan Assistance Coordinator
Diocese of Green Bay
at 877-270-8174
or
920-272-8174.



If you prefer to report an incident to someone not employed by the Diocese, please call:

Robert Johnson, LCSW
Executive Director, American Foundation of Counseling Services, Green Bay,
a facilitator who can assist you
in filing a report.
Phone 920-437-8256.



We also encourage you to report the incident to local civil authorities.

To report abuse in Wisconsin:

If you suspect a child is in imminent danger, please call 911 immediately.

To report suspected child abuse, contact:
Department of Health and Family Services
For more information on your county,
go online

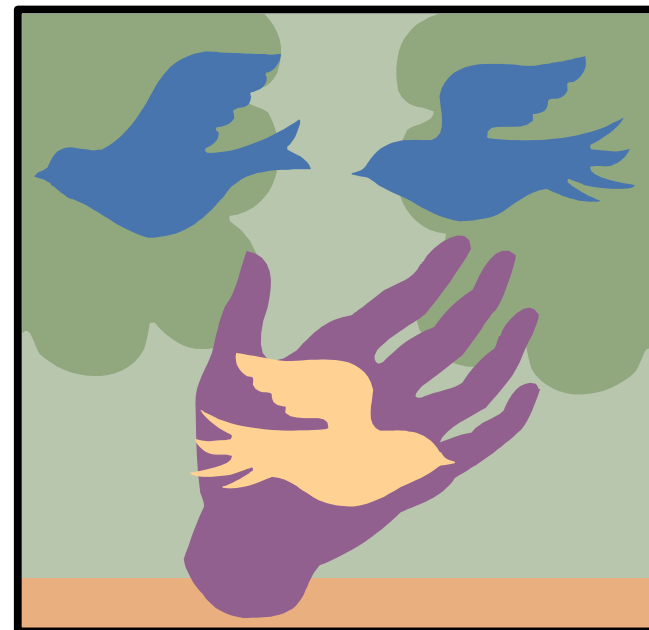
<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/children/>



Diocese of
Green Bay

More information can be
found at www.gbdioc.org

Promise to Protect,



Pledge to Heal

"Protecting children and individuals at risk and ensuring that our parish and school communities offer safe environments is one of our most important responsibilities. I am committed to continue all efforts required to fulfill this responsibility and to restore the trust of the faithful of the Diocese of Green Bay.

- Bishop David L. Ricken
November 14, 2008

Should I report an act of sexual misconduct by Diocesan personnel to the Diocese?

The Diocese of Green Bay takes very seriously any and all credible complaints of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, religious and lay staff of the Diocese.

We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform the Diocese immediately so that we can take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse.

Who can I contact to report an allegation of sexual abuse or misconduct?

Any person who wishes to report an incident of sexual misconduct by a member of the clergy, religious or lay staff of the Diocese of Green Bay should contact the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator of the Diocese as follows:

Ann Fox
Diocesan Assistance Coordinator
Diocese of Green Bay
at 877-270-8174 or
920-272-8174.

Write to: Diocesan Assistance Coordinator, Diocese of Green Bay, P.O. Box 23825, Green Bay, WI 54305-3825.

Letters should be marked *Personal and Confidential* and indicate when and how the person writing can be contacted for further information.

Safe and sacred places



Does the Diocese provide assistance to sexual abuse victims?

The Diocese is concerned about the well-being of those who have suffered abuse, and has designated a Diocesan Assistance Coordinator to help anyone who reports that he or she has been abused.

Should I report the allegation to civil authorities?

The Diocese strongly encourages any individual with an allegation to contact the civil authorities in the county where the incident(s) occurred. Even though the Diocese is providing information concerning abuse allegations to the civil authorities, it is important that they hear directly from the individual making the allegation.

The Diocese Shall Take Every Complaint Seriously

The Diocese will respond promptly and seriously to every complaint of sexual misconduct against a minor by a priest or deacon. When the Diocese receives an allegation that a priest or deacon has engaged in sexual misconduct, it will immediately begin an investigation. The Diocese will offer the alleged victim pastoral assistance and counseling that may be needed. During the diocesan investigation, the rights of all those who are involved, including both the person making the allegation and the person accused of misconduct, will be protected. The person making the complaint may seek counsel to vindicate his/her rights if the person believes that the Diocese has not responded adequately to the allegation.

What is being done to prevent sexual misconduct in the Church?

Every effort is made to assure that all persons ministering in the Diocese are aware of and will abide by the policies prohibiting sexual harassment, exploitation or abuse, and the procedures for dealing with incidents of sexual misconduct.

All employees of the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay and its local representatives; all Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians; and any volunteers age 18 and over who have direct contact with children, youth, and individuals at risk are required to attend a VIRTUS® *Protecting God's Children*™ Adult Awareness Session, complete an approved criminal background check and acknowledge receipt of appropriate conduct policy.

Conclusion

Sexual misconduct is complex as well as terribly harmful. No simple or uniform methodology can provide an effective response because each instance has unique aspects that require adaptation.

However, our experience over the past many years tells us it is possible for individuals and communities to heal from the effects of sexual misconduct. This is not easily or quickly accomplished. Effective counseling, support groups and spiritual direction are tools which are often required for this healing.

The Diocese is committed to doing all that it can to:

- Promote safe, healthy communities of faith.
- Intervene effectively when there is sexual misconduct.
- Respond fairly and compassionately to those harmed by sexual misconduct.