

Diocese of Reno Procedure

For Receiving and Responding to Reports of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Clergy or Other Church Workers

The Review Board of the Diocese of Reno has established procedures for reporting and responding to allegations of sexual abuse of minors or those who habitually lack the use of reason by priests, deacons and other employees of the Diocese.

If the victim is still a minor, a report should be filed immediately (**within 24 hours**) call the child abuse hotline for the area: **1-833-803-1183**.

Any allegation of sexual misconduct will be taken seriously by the Diocese and the process of investigation will be initiated immediately. The Board has designated a Victim's Advocate to receive all allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon or other employee of the Diocese. Allegations should be reported to a toll free number: **1-844-669-8911 (voice) or 1-844-861-8339 (fax)** throughout Northern Nevada. Please provide a phone number so that a return call can be made by the Victim's Advocate: Patty Noyes, LMFT: **1-844-669-8911**. (Updated contact information 1-18-2023)

When an allegation is against a priest or a deacon, the following steps will be taken:

1. The Diocese will request a personal interview with the one making the allegation
2. If the alleged victim is presently a minor, the Diocese shall comply with all civil reporting requirements. If the allegation is made by one who is no longer a minor, the Diocese will file a police report and will encourage the victim to file a report as well.
3. The Bishop will be informed of the allegation. Pursuant to the requirements of Canon Law, the Promoter of Justice will be informed.
4. If the safety of the children requires the immediate withdrawal of the accused on administrative leave at any time during the process. Every effort will be made to protect the good name of both the victim and the accused, who have the right to confidentiality.
5. The allegations will be investigated by the Diocese and by civil authorities if they deem it appropriate. No action of the Diocese will impede the investigation by civil authorities and the Diocese will cooperate with any and all civil investigations.
6. The Victim's Advocate of the Diocese will assist the victim, and, when appropriate, the victim's family, in accessing all needed services, will help the victim to understand the process and will provide the assistance as needed.
7. When there is sufficient evidence that the sexual abuse of a minor by a cleric has occurred, the Bishop will implement the proceedings required by Canon Law. The alleged offender may be requested to seek appropriate medical and psychological evaluation at a facility mutually acceptable to the Diocese and the accused, as long as this does not interfere with any

investigation by civil authorities.

8. The Diocesan investigator shall prepare a confidential report of the findings. The confidential report will be submitted to the Bishop, who will consult with the Diocesan Review Board. The Board will advise the Bishop of its determinations and conclusions.
9. Even a single act of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest or deacon shall result in permanent removal from ministry. The cleric may also be removed from the clerical state. The Bishop will offer the cleric professional assistance for his own healing and wellbeing, and for the purpose of prevention.

Allegations of sexual misconduct by a lay employee of the Diocese made by a person who is still a minor will be reported to civil authorities as is required by law. The accused may be placed on administrative leave while the investigation is conducted. The Diocese will encourage the accuser to file a police report. The Diocese will cooperate in all civil investigations and, if circumstances warrant, conduct an investigation of its own. The Bishop will be informed of all actions taken with regard to allegations of sexual misconduct.