



**DIOCESE OF SALT LAKE CITY
OFFICE OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT**

SEXUAL ABUSE ALLEGATION RESPONSE POLICY

Child Abuse, including sexual abuse of minors or vulnerable adults, is contrary to Christian principals and will not be tolerated. All personnel and volunteers within the Diocese of Salt Lake City must comply with applicable state and local laws regarding incident of actual or suspected child abuse. Further, they are to be made familiar with the policies and procedures prescribed by the diocese to:

- a) Comply fully with reporting laws and fully cooperate with investigating authorities.
- b) Guarantee an effective response to allegations of child abuse.
- c) Ensure the accountability of diocesan procedures.
- d) Promote healing and reconciliation with victims/survivors of child abuse.
- e) Educate personnel and volunteers of the diocese and its parishes, schools, institutions and organizations about the policies and procedures.

Every allegation of abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult by a cleric, Diocesan personnel or volunteer or that occurs on Diocesan property as well as any allegation meeting the criteria under Utah State law for child abuse must be reported.

- 1) Upon receipt of an allegation, complaint or allegation of sexual abuse by a cleric or Diocesan personnel or volunteers, the alleged abuse is reported to the Utah State Office of the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) and the law enforcement agency where the alleged abuse occurred.
- 2) The Bishop may appoint a delegate to investigate the allegation. Contact with the individual reporting the allegation will be made by the delegate.
- 3) The Diocesan Safe Environment Independent Review Board will assist with assessing the allegations of sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult and meeting with victims and the accused separately, when requested.
- 4) Allegations against a priest or deacon. The Canonical Process for Clerics (Appendix D of the Safe Environment Policy Manual) will be followed.
- 5) Allegations against a religious priest, brother, or sister. The Bishop or Vicar General notifies the accused person's major superior. The accused person shall be placed immediately on administrative leave. If the sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult is admitted or established, the accused person shall be permanently removed from all activities within the diocese.
- 6) Allegations against an employee (personnel) or volunteer. If the allegation is found to be credible, the administrator who has authority over the accused shall place the accused person immediately on administrative leave, or, in the case of a volunteer, suspend the services of the accused. If sexual abuse is admitted or established, the accused person may be terminated or, in the case of a volunteer, barred from volunteering in any

capacity involving contact with minors or vulnerable adults. If sexual abuse is not established, the accused person may be reinstated or, in the case of a volunteer, allowed to continue serving as a volunteer.

- 7) Care must always be taken to protect the rights of all parties involved, particularly those of the person claiming to have been abused and the person against whom the charge has been made. When the accusation has proved to be unfounded, every effort will be made to restore the good name of the person falsely accused.