

PROMISE TO PROTECT



PLEDGE TO HEAL

BELIEVE IN THE POSSIBILITY OF HELP AND HEALING. THERE IS HOPE.

Reporting Child Abuse

If abuse is within the home or by a licensed Daycare staff:

- ▶ **LA Dept. of Children and Family Services, 1-855-452-5437**

If abuse is outside of the home::

- ▶ **Local City or Sheriff's Department**

If the accused is a priest, deacon, religious brother or sister, seminarian, employee or volunteer of a Diocesan Office, Catholic school, or Church parish in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, call the Outreach Line (985) 873-0026 or the Victims' Assistance Coordinator, Sister Carmelita, after it has been reported to the local police or Sheriff's Department.

- ▶ **Victims' Assistance Coordinator at (985) 873-0026 or (985) 850-3172**

DO NOT contact the child's family if the child fears going home or you feel there is clear and imminent danger, contact law enforcement.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP: In response to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, The Outreach Line is an effort to continue the diocesan commitment to support healing for people who have been hurt or sexually abused recently or in the past by clergy, religious or other employees of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux.



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Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux
Office of Child and Youth Protection

Safe Environment Online Training

safeandsacred-htdiocese.org

The online Safe Environment Training,
Protecting Children in the 21st Century,
includes the following:

- Background Check
- Questionnaire
- Child Abuse Course
- Boundaries Course
- Code of Professional Conduct



Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux
Office of Child and Youth Protection
www.htdiocese.org

(985) 850-3140

Mandated Reporting & Safe Environment Training



PROMISE to Protect Pledge to HEAL

We all have a responsibility to
ensure the safety of children
in our parishes, schools, families,
and local communities.

**Together we can help
keep children safe.**



Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux
Office of Child and Youth Protection
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Am I a Mandated Reporter?

YES! (if you are 18 & over)

- Louisiana State law requires the reporting of suspected abuse if there is reasonable cause to believe/suspect that abuse has occurred. Professions that must report in the state of Louisiana are clergy, health care professionals, mental health professionals, social work professionals, education/child care professionals.
- Teachers and/or child care providers now include anyone who "assists in teaching" of a child as well as the bus driver, coach, professor, technical or vocational instructor, school staff member, college or university administrator, and college or university staff member whether the person "in a volunteer or professional capacity."
- In other words, all volunteers are included. Organizational or youth activity providers, which means "any person who provides organized activities for children, including administrators, employees, or volunteers of any day camp, summer camp, youth center, or youth recreation program or other organization that provides organized activities for children.
- Also law enforcement professionals and commercial film and photographic print processors.
- The obligation to report now goes beyond the work day to all times!

How is Abuse Defined?

Abuse refers to an intentional act committed by a person in a position of trust which harms or threatens to harm a minor's physical or mental welfare.

Types of Abuse

Physical Abuse occurs when an adult injures a child and it is not an accident.

Neglect is any maltreatment or negligence that harms a child's welfare or safety.

Emotional Abuse occurs when an adult subjects a child to verbal assault or emotional cruelty.

Sexual Abuse involves sexual contact between a child and an adult or significantly older, more powerful person.

This may include direct sexual contact as well as other exploitive behaviors such as:

- inappropriate verbal stimulation;
- taking or showing sexually explicit photographs of or to a child or youth;
- Exposing a child or youth to pornography or adult sexual activity.



I Suspect Child Abuse and Neglect. What Do I Do?

The Louisiana Children's Code (Article 610) specifies that mandated reporters shall make reports immediately upon learning of incidents of child abuse or neglect.

If abuse is within the home or by a Licensed Daycare Staff:

Call Department of Children and Family Services

LA Dept. of Children & Family Services

(24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

1-855-4LA-KIDS

(1-855-452-5437)

Be sure that you have as much information about the victim as possible including:

- Name, address, age, sex, race of child
- Name of parent or guardian
- Telephone number
- Nature, extent or cause of child's injuries or endangered condition
- Name, address and telephone of abuser if known.

If abuse is outside of the home:

Call local Police or Sheriff's Department

Lafourche Parish: (985) 446-2255

St. Mary Parish: (337) 828-1960

Terrebonne Parish: (985) 876-2500

Jefferson Parish: (504) 364-5300



National Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-4-A-CHILD

If you need help or have questions about child abuse, call the Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453) then push 1 to talk to a counselor. The hotline counselors are available 365 days a year to help kids, and adults who are worried about kids they suspect are being abused.

If the accused is Clergy (Priest, Deacon, Religious Brother or Sister or Seminarian), Employee, Volunteer in a Catholic school or Church parish in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux call the Outreach line or the Victims' Assistance Coordinator after it has been reported to the local police or Sheriff's Department.

Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux Outreach line

(985) 873-0026

Victims' Assistance Coordinator

(985) 850-3172