

## **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. If you have a reasonable suspicion that abuse has occurred, 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](http://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 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 Ordinariate personnel, (priests, deacons, employees, teachers or volunteers), after contacting the authorities, contact the Ordinariate Safe Environment Coordinator.

**Lynn Schmidt**

**Safe Environment Coordinator**

**The Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter**

**907/317-6257, [SafeEnvironment@ordinariate.net](mailto:SafeEnvironment@ordinariate.net)**

The point of contact within the Ordinariate for the receipt of reports, allegations, and concerns related to the abuse of children, youth and at-risk adults, regardless of the age of the person making the report, is the Safe Environment Coordinator. All such reports must be made to this Coordinator, even if such reports have also been made to the pastor, a leader of an Ordinariate or parish activity, or to civil authorities.

It is the policy of the Ordinariate to respond promptly and with compassion to all reports of abuse. Be aware that if you report abuse to us and have not been in contact with authorities, the Ordinariate will report the matter to local law enforcement and child protection authorities.

To the extent that it is known, the information to be reported shall be:

- a) The name, address and age of the alleged victim (now and at the time of the alleged abuse); b) if the person is under the age of 18 at present, the contact information for his or her parents or guardian; c) the nature, type and extent of the alleged abuse; d) the dates and places when and where the alleged abuse occurred; e) the name of the alleged perpetrator; and f) any other pertinent information provided by the alleged victim.

In addition, we note the following guidelines for the response to allegations:

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

## **Blessed 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

## **Our Lady of Walsingham**

Children & Family Development

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

## **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

## **Christ the King**

Tyendianaga Mohawk Family & Children Services  
Social services organization in Shannonville, Ontario  
26 John St, Shannonville, ON K0K 3A0

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

## **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

## **Our Lady of the Sign**

The New Brunswick Child and Youth Advocate

Government office in Fredericton, New Brunswick  
(506) 453-2789

## **St. Bede**

Nova Scotia Child Protection

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

Phone: (902) 425-5420