

Call Response - Allegations of Sexual Misconduct

If you receive a call from someone who wants to report an allegation of abuse against someone who worked for the Church (priests, deacons, employees or volunteers), there are a few points that will be helpful to remember.

- The allegation may need to be reported to law enforcement. Recent acts *must* be reported to authorities and to my office. Do not hesitate to call if you have questions.
- As long as you are kind, compassionate and respectful, try not to worry about what you say or how you say it. Understand that you are the first step of many in the journey towards healing. God is with you.
- Always remember the tremendous courage it takes for this person to make this call. They may be abrupt, confused, angry, or weepy. Stay calm and pastoral.
- It will flow naturally to say how sorry you are that this has happened to them. This is not about believing them, questioning them, it's just one person who has been harmed – "I am so sorry you had this experience" works.
- You do not need to ask a lot of questions or gather all of the information. Keep your conversation short, but not abrupt.
- After you have given them my contact information, let them know that you will be sharing theirs with me. Some thoughts to share:
 - The Diocese really does want to talk to you about your experience. The people at the Chancery who have the authority to speak with you on behalf of the Church really do want to talk to you and assist you. (Use words that feel comfortable to you)

Gather the following information (as best as you are able)

Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Name of the Accused: _____

Approximate Date of Allegation (year): _____

Where the incident occurred: _____

Please forward the information you gather to me as soon as possible.

My information:

Fatima Jimenez

Director, Child and Youth Protection, Victim Assistance Coordinator

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