



Reporting sexual abuse of minors

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids has a policy regarding reporting and dealing with sexual abuse of minors. Any person having reasonable cause to suspect sexual abuse of a minor by a member of the clergy (bishop, priest or deacon) or by any person acting under the authority or apparent authority of the church, is urged to **contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator:**

**Victim Assistance Coordinator
Diocese of Grand Rapids
660 Burton St. S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616-243-0491)**

Individuals who believe they were sexually abused as a minor by a priest or deacon are urged to follow the same reporting procedure.

The report should include details of the suspected abuse, such as the name of the minor, the name of the abuser, names of witnesses or potential witnesses, date and place of the occurrence and any other relevant information. As an alternative, a report may be made to the Department of Human Services for the applicable county.

Certain people, such as priests, doctors, teachers and nurses, are required by law to report suspected abuse of minors directly to their respective Department of Human Services, as well as to the person in charge of the relevant parish, hospital, agency or school. The procedure outlined above is not intended as a substitute for the obligations of those individuals.

Please help your Church deal with suspected abuse situations by cooperating to the fullest extent possible.