



## **DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE**

### **TOWARD PROVIDING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT**

#### **Legal Reporting Requirement for Child Abuse**

Persons, mandatory or permissive, having reasonable cause to suspect that a child has or may be abused, shall or may make a report to the local authorities. *Sec. 48.981 (Wis. Stats.)*

#### **Mandatory Reporters\* Who “Shall” Report**

Clergy: Ordained priests, deacons

Consecrated Persons: sisters, brothers, members of Religious Orders

School teachers

School administrators

School counselors

Child care workers

Day care providers

Marriage or family therapists

Professional counselors...

*\* This lists some but not all mandatory reporters.*

#### **Permissive Reporters Who “May” Report**

All other persons.

#### **Where to Report**

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Your local County Social Services Agency or local Sheriff or Police Department.

### **Diocesan Policy and Procedures**

- 1) Complaint Form on back is completed and sent to the Office of Bishop, Diocese of La Crosse.
- 2) The Diocese will follow all legal reporting requirements.
- 3) All necessary protective actions will be immediately taken by the Diocese of La Crosse.
- 4) An immediate investigation is initiated.
- 5) Diocesan Bishop appoints individuals to interview both accused and accuser, and serve as his liaisons.
- 6) The Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator makes contact with the alleged victim.
- 7) If the accusation is admitted or sufficiently confirmed through the appropriate investigation process, the Diocese of La Crosse shall follow all required protocols mandated by Canon Law, the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and the Essential Norms: Statement of Episcopal Commitment, the Revised Policy and Procedures on Sexual Misconduct for the Diocese of La Crosse (Red Book) as appropriate, the Revised Policy and Procedures Child Sexual Abuse Policy and Procedures of the Diocese of La Crosse (Green Book) as appropriate and all civil law requirements.

Diocese of La Crosse  
3710 East Avenue South  
P.O. Box 4004  
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54602-4004  
(608) 788-7700

### **Diocesan Website**

[www.diol.org/safe-environment](http://www.diol.org/safe-environment)