

Archdiocese of San Antonio

What happens when you Report Abuse

If you have knowledge or suspicion that a child has been abused/neglected by a family member or stranger call CPS at 1-800-252-5400 or local law enforcement.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of sexual abuse by a priest, deacon, or other church personnel and you wish to file a complaint:

Initial Contact

- Contact the Office of Victim Assistance & Safe Environment at (210) 734-7786 or 1-877-700-1888. ***You have the right to contact law enforcement or CPS at any time.***
- The Office of Victim Assistance & Safe Environment will ask for the following information:
 - The nature of the alleged abuse
 - The name and age of the victim at the time of the alleged abuse
 - The age of the victim at the time of the report
 - Contact information for the victim
 - The name of the alleged perpetrator
 - The date(s), time(s), location(s), and frequency of the abuse
- A written report will be created and forwarded to Archbishop Gomez or his designee.
- The Office of Victim Assistance & Safe Environment will provide follow-up services including but not limited to counseling and spiritual guidance.
- ***The victim has the right to contact a lawyer at any time during this process.***
- The Archbishop or his designee will offer to meet with the victim.
- Archbishop Gomez or his designee will contact the District Attorney. ***All cases are forwarded to the District Attorney.***

The Investigation

- Archbishop Gomez will notify the Crisis Intervention Committee (CIC) to perform an initial investigation.
- Two members of the CIC are assigned to the case.
- The assigned members of the CIC will meet with the one who has brought the allegation.
- The CIC will then meet with the person against whom the allegation has been made.
- Other persons may be contacted if necessary.

The Recommendation

- Based upon their investigation, the CIC will make a recommendation to the Archbishop.
- This recommendation will state if the allegation is credible and requires further actions.
- If the allegation is considered credible:
 - A full investigation will be conducted according to Canon Law
 - The alleged perpetrator will be suspended from ministry
 - The faith community will be notified

- If the perpetrator is cleared, he/her will be returned to ministry and their name will be restored
- If the perpetrator is not cleared, then he/she will be permanently removed from ministry
- For a credible allegation, the Archdiocese will offer immediate assistance
 - Professional counseling services will be offered to the victim
 - The professional counseling service will be offered through a list of approved providers
 - The victim may choose his/her own counselor after approval by the Archdiocese
 - The Archdiocese will require progress reports from the counselor on a monthly basis for continued payment of service
- If the allegation is considered non-credible no further action is taken.

Seeing to the welfare of victims is a primary duty of the Archdiocese of San Antonio when confronted with evidence of abuse. We are committed to providing respect, confidentiality, and pastoral healing to all who have experienced abuse by the clergy.