

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE TO CIVIL AND PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES

A report must be filed with civil authorities concerning abuse of a child or young person who is now under the age of 18:

Civil Law: Mandated reporters are required to report abuse and neglect of any child they see while in the course of their professional duties. Persons required to report must also report those situations in which they have reason to believe that a child has been threatened with abuses or neglect and that abuse or neglect is likely to occur.

(The list of mandatory reporters varies from state to state)

The Policy of the Province of St. Joseph requires all friars, staff and volunteers to contact the appropriate civil authorities when a person has knowledge or reasonable cause to suspect that a person under eighteen (18) years of age is being, or has been, abused or neglected.



What Information is Required for Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

The report to the local law enforcement agency (see list on page two) must be made immediately by telephone containing:

- the names and addresses of the child and his parents or other person responsible for his/her care, if known;
- the child's age; the child's sex;
- the nature and extent of the child's injuries, abuse, maltreatment, or neglect, including any evidence of prior injuries, abuse, maltreatment, or neglect;
- the circumstances under which the person required to report first became aware of the child's injuries, abuse, maltreatment, or neglect;
- whatever actions, if any was taken to treat, shelter, or otherwise assist the child;
- the name of the person or persons making such report.

A person who was sexually abused as a child by a friar, provincial employee or volunteer but who is now an adult has a right to file a report with the local District Attorney.

Any person may also make a complaint to the Director of the Office of Pastoral Care and Conciliation.

All complaints shall be forwarded on to law enforcement unless the accused is deceased.

The Director of the Office of Pastoral Care
Amy Peterson
414-374-8841 Ext. 22



The policy of the Province of St. Joseph requires friars, provincial personnel and volunteers to communicate:

-any complaints they receive concerning child abuse by a friar, provincial employee, and volunteer;

-any report filed with civil authorities concerning child abuse by a friar, provincial employee, and volunteer;

To Amy Peterson, Director of the Office of Pastoral Care and Conciliation within 24 hours.



Policies and Procedures for Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

"Persons making a complaint about child abuse to the Church will normally be asked to provide the following information:

- the name of the person against whom the complaint is made, and the name of the complainant;
- a detailed description of the alleged abuse; including relevant dates, time, and circumstances;
- the names and contact information for person who may have knowledge of the alleged abuse.

The Province of St. Joseph will cooperate with civil authorities concerning investigations of a complaint of child abuse and conduct investigations with respect for the rights of individuals.