REPORTING CHILD ABUSE TO CIVIL AND CHURCH 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: When a mandated reporter has reasonable cause to believe that a person under the age of 18 is suffering abuse or neglect, he/she is to report immediately to the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

- The law of the Archdiocese of Boston requires all clergy, archdiocesan personnel, 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.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Children and Families
800-792-5200
617-748-2000

A report concerning child abuse by clergy, archdiocesan personnel, or volunteers may also be filed with Church authorities.

Any person may make a complaint to ecclesiastical authorities concerning child abuse by clergy, archdiocesan personnel, or volunteers.

The Director of Professional Standards & Oversight, Mark Dunderdale
617-746-5624

Office of Pastoral Support and Outreach
617-746-5995
617-746-5985
Vivian_Soper@RCAB.org

The law of the Archdiocese of Boston requires clergy, archdiocesan personnel, and volunteers to communicate:

- any complaints they receive concerning child abuse by clergy, archdiocesan personnel, and volunteers;
- any report filed with civil authorities concerning child abuse.

Policies and Procedures for the Protection of Children, article 7

“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, times, and circumstances;
- the names and contact information for persons who may have knowledge of the alleged abuse.

The Archdiocese will cooperate with civil authorities concerning investigations of a complaint of child abuse and conduct investigations with respect for civil law and the rights of individuals.”

NOTE: Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Teams exist in every parish and parish cluster of the Archdiocese and have been trained in reporting procedures. The CAP Team may be consulted for help in contacting the appropriate DCF and District Attorney offices and filing a report.