

Reporting Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect

All educational staff shall comply with the procedures for reporting suspected child abuse and neglect as established by Michigan Public Act 238 of 1975.

It is legally required that cases of actual or suspected child abuse or neglect be filed immediately in accordance with the State of Michigan Child Protection Law (public Act 238) by school administrators, teachers, counselors, nurses, physicians, or any duly regulated child care provider.

A person required to report an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect who knowingly fails to do so is civilly liable for the damages proximately caused by the failure. (Sec. 13.(1)) A person required to report an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect who knowingly fails to do so is guilty of a misdemeanor. (Sec. 13.(2))

Reports shall be made **immediately** to the local Family Independence Agency if reasonable cause exists to suspect child abuse or neglect. Reporting such a case is not a matter of discretion; rather, it is one of personal responsibility. A report made by telephone shall be followed by a written report within seventy-two (72) hours by the person making the oral report.

A person acting in good faith who makes a report or assists in any other requirement of this act shall be immune from civil or criminal liability which might otherwise be incurred thereby. (Sec. 5)

The identity of a reporting person shall be confidential, subject to disclosure only with the consent of that person or judicial process. Form FIA-3200 shall be used for filing the written report.

If the reporting person is a member of a hospital, agency, or school staff, he shall notify the person in charge thereof of his finding, that the report has been made, and make a copy of the written report available to the person in charge. (Act No. 238, Public Acts of 1975, as amended)

In addition, any clergy, religious, administrator, staff person, or volunteer of the Diocese receiving a complaint or allegation of sexual abuse involving a diocesan employee or volunteer **MUST:** 1) Indicate to the informant that the Diocese has both a policy and procedure to be followed in this matter (Diocesan policy A 9, 3-6) and 2) Report the matter immediately to the Bishop or someone in authority at the Pastoral Office providing details as known, including the identity and means of contacting the person making the complaint or allegation. Every effort will be made to keep identity of the informant confidential.

Policy

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DIOCESE OF MARQUETTE
Marquette, Michigan