

## **CHILD ABUSE POLICY (CIVIL LAW)**

The State of Michigan Family Independence Agency published a "Child Protection Law" pamphlet dated March, 1999, which has been issued to all parishes and institutions in the diocese.

For any incident where a psychologist, family therapist, social worker, school administrator, school counselor or teacher or duly regulated child care provider has reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect, the State of Michigan Family Independent Agency must immediately be contacted by telephone. An oral report of the incident must initially be given, to be followed by a written report within 72 hours of the incident. The written report is made on form FIA-3200, which may be obtained by contacting the diocesan offices at 1-800-562-9745, Ext. 111 or (906) 227-9111. The reporting person may be a school administrator, school counselor, teacher, priest, etc.

If the reporting person is a member of the staff of a parish, school or institution, the reporting person shall notify the person in charge of his or her findings, that the report has been made and make a copy of the written report available to the person in charge.

*January 2000*

