

**Safe and Sacred:
Protecting All God's
Children**

Training Component B

For use in the Diocese of Crookston

‘See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father’

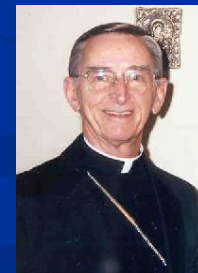
-Mt 18:10

In the previous training material I discussed the framework of Catholic social teaching according to which we should understand our efforts to protect children and young people as well as other vulnerable persons among us.

With this component, Component B, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that abuse, including the sexual abuse of children and young people, has spiritual effects as well as behavioral, emotional, and physical ones. The spiritual effects of having been abused can include having a distorted image of God, a decreased desire to love due to the victim's experience of love being accompanied with hurt and shame, and a feeling of being unworthy of love which is brought about by the victim's misplaced sense of blame for what happened. At its worst, the spiritual effects of abuse can result in the victim rejecting God, his/her faith, and his/her Church. As you can see, the victim's suffering due to the abuse he or she has experienced directly impacts his or her ability to receive the message of Christ communicated through the Gospels.

With all this in mind, I ask all of you to be aware of the signs of abuse, and to be vigilant in your efforts to report abuse when you know or have reasonable cause to suspect that it is occurring. The purpose of the materials before you today is to help you be aware of the procedures for reporting actual or suspected abuse of minors. I thank you in advance for your participation in these efforts.

-Bishop Victor H. Balke
-Bishop of Crookston



Training Component B

Receiving Disclosures and Reporting
Abuse

General Directions (online version)

1. You will need approximately 30 minutes to complete this training component
 2. As the slide appears, click your mouse button anywhere on the screen and additional print will flow onto the page.
 3. After you have read the contents of the slide, click your mouse button to advance to the next window.
 4. Once you have finished the session, load and complete the test.
 5. Your registration and scoring will automatically be stored in the diocesan Safe Environment database.
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General Directions (print version)

1. You will need approximately 30 minutes to complete this training component
 2. Read carefully through the materials in this booklet.
 3. After you have read the contents of the booklet, remove and complete the test.
 4. Send the completed test to the Safe Environment Office of the Diocese of Crookston
 5. Your registration and scoring will then be stored in the diocesan Safe Environment database, and you will be notified of your test results and provided with a certificate to indicate that you have completed the required training.
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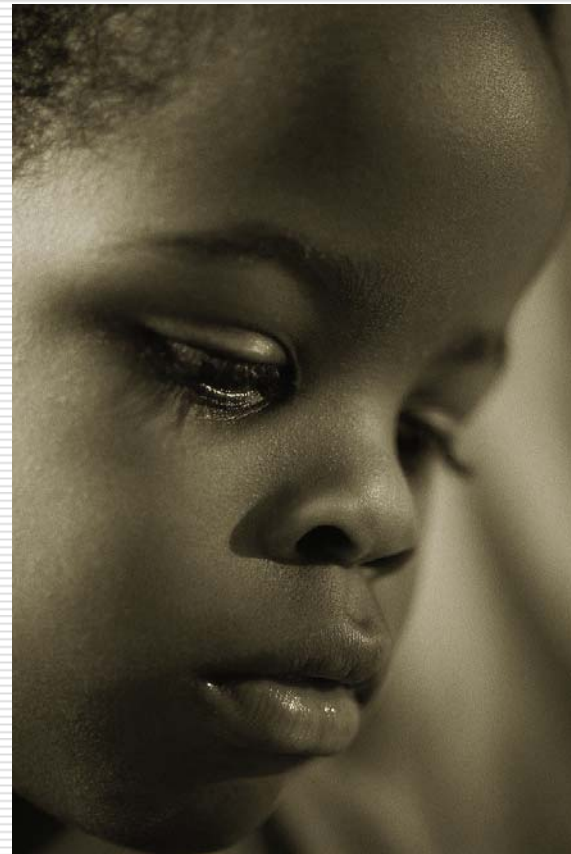
When you have completed Component B you will know:

- Ways that a child or young person may attempt to disclose abuse
 - How you should respond to disclosures of abuse
 - The proper way to report actual or suspected child abuse
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Remember, there are

Four Kinds of Child Abuse

- Emotional Abuse
- Neglect
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse



Statistics to be aware of:

- ❑ Abuse, including sexual abuse, occurs in all age groups and across all cultural and economic groups.
 - ❑ One out of every four girls and one out of every eight boys will experience sexual abuse before the age of 18.
 - ❑ Studies have shown that nearly seven million children suffer from caretaker violence in any given year. In 2003, 8500 children in Minnesota were abused or neglected.
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*What you need to know about
a child who needs to tell...*

Disclosing Abuse

- When seeking to disclose abuse- in other words, to 'tell a trusted adult'- a child or young person may be hindered by a variety of factors that result in a tentative form of telling
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Tentative telling...

- The child or young person may
 - Lack the appropriate vocabulary to make the disclosure
 - Feel ashamed or embarrassed
 - Have been told not to tell
 - Have been threatened by the perpetrator with bad consequences for themselves or family members if they told
 - Be testing the adult to see if they will be believed
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Consequently, a child or young person attempting to disclose abuse might attempt to do so through...

□ Indirect hints

- 'My brother wouldn't let me sleep last night...'
 - 'My babysitter keeps bothering me...'
 - 'Mr. Smith has funny underwear...'
 - 'My mom says that spanking will toughen me up...'
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Or through...

□ Disguised disclosure

- 'I have a friend who was touched in a bad way...'
 - 'What would happen if a girl told her mother that she was molested and her mother didn't believe her?'
 - 'Have you ever heard of a kid being left outside in the cold when it was dark outside?'
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If you believe that a child or young person is attempting to disclose abuse to you...

There are several things that it is important that you do, and several that it is important that you DO NOT do.

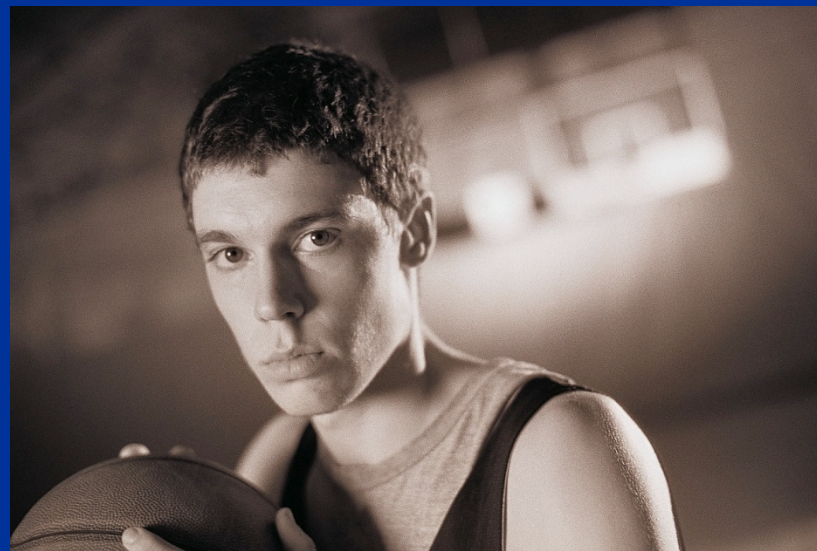
What can I do?

- It is important that you communicate the following things to the child or young person
 - **IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT**
 - I believe you
 - I am glad that you told me
 - I will try and help you
 - Abuse is wrong and we take reports very seriously
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What should I **NOT** do?

- It is important that you **DO NOT**
 - Ask the child if he or she is telling the truth
 - Promise the child that you will not tell anyone else
 - Criticize the abuser, as it may be someone the child cares about
 - Express shock or panic
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Reporting Abuse that has been disclosed to you



While serving in the ministry of the Church (as a member of the clergy, an employee, or a volunteer) you may have the experience of being told of abuse that has occurred or have suspicions of abuse of a child or vulnerable person. You have the responsibility to take appropriate steps to respond.

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- Write down your observations. If you suspect an act of abuse has occurred, if you actually witnessed abuse, or if someone tells you that they were hurt:

Carefully note

- Any outward physical signs that you see
 - Any changes in behavior
 - Things that the child or vulnerable person has said
 - Any additional information about what happened
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Reporting Abuse to Civil Authorities

State Law:

From *Current Minnesota Statutes* (2005 edition):
Chapter 626.556

Subd. 3. **Persons mandated to report.** (a) A person who knows or has reason to believe a child is being neglected or physically or sexually abused, as defined in subdivision 2[1], or has been neglected or physically or sexually abused within the preceding three years, shall immediately (as soon as possible and within 24 hours) report the information to the local welfare agency, agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report, police department, or the county sheriff if the person is:

State law (cont.)

- (1) a professional or professional's delegate who is engaged in the practice of the healing arts, social services, hospital administration, psychological or psychiatric treatment, child care, education, correctional supervision, probation and correctional services, or law enforcement; or
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State law (cont.)

- (2) employed as a member of the clergy and received the information while engaged in ministerial duties, provided that a member of the clergy is not required by this subdivision to report information that is otherwise privileged under section [595.02](#), subdivision 1, paragraph (c)[\[1\]](#).
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State law (cont.)

Section [595.02](#), subdivision 1, exempts clergy from reporting information received during confession.

State law (cont.)

- (b) Any person may voluntarily report to the local welfare agency, agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report, the police department, or the county sheriff if the person knows, has reason to believe, or suspects a child is being or has been neglected or subjected to physical or sexual abuse.
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State law (cont.)

Subd. 7. **Report.** An oral report shall be made immediately by telephone or otherwise. An oral report made by a person required under subdivision 3 to report shall be followed within 72 hours, exclusive of weekends and holidays, by a report in writing to the appropriate police department, the county sheriff, the agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report, or the local welfare agency, unless the appropriate agency has informed the reporter that the oral information does not constitute a report under subdivision 10. Any report shall be of sufficient content to identify the child, any person believed to be responsible for the abuse or neglect of the child if the person is known, the nature and extent of the abuse or neglect and the name and address of the reporter.

**The Safe Environment Policy
of the
Diocese of Crookston**

Diocesan Safe Environment Policy

- The policies and procedures for the protection of children and young people in the Diocese of Crookston reminds clergy and employees of our Catholic parishes and schools that we are mandated reporters. When working with our children in our parishes and classrooms, we also ask our volunteers, not mandated by law, to make the same commitment to keep these sacred young people safe.
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Diocesan Safe Environment Policy

- 5.1.1 Persons who are obliged by the law of the State of Minnesota and the Diocese of Crookston to report suspected sexual abuse of minors to civil authorities must carry out this duty. Reporting to Church authorities does not excuse any person from this obligation, except as may be allowed by civil law.
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Reporting:

- If you do not know the telephone number of the local Child Protection Agency or law enforcement office, dial 911.
 - A listing of county social services agencies can be found on the webpage of the Minnesota Department of Human Services (www.dhs.state.mn.us)
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County Social Service Agencies

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|--|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Becker | 218-847-5628 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beltrami | 218-333-4223 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clay | 218-299-5200 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clearwater | 218-694-6512 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hubbard | 218-732-1451 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kittson | 218-843-2689 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake of the Woods | 218-634-2642 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mahnomen | 218-935-2568 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marshall | 218-745-5124 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Norman | 218-784-5400 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pennington | 218-681-2880 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Polk | 218-281-3127 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red Lake | 218-253-4131 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roseau | 218-463-2411 |

In addition to reporting to civil authorities:

- 6.1.1 When clergy and diocesan and parish or school personnel and volunteers file a report with civil authorities concerning sexual abuse of a minor by a cleric or one of the diocesan, school or parish personnel or a volunteer, the Moderator of the Curia is to be notified within twenty-four (24) hours and, if possible, supplied with a copy of the written report.
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More detailed information about reporting suspected or actual abuse can be found in Article Five of the policies and procedures of the Diocese of Crookston, available at your parish or on the diocesan website (www.crookston.org).

It is a sad fact that many incidences where children are suspected of being abused are never reported. We have the ability to change that and protect all children and the vulnerable among us in our churches and in the communities where we live.

To complete the requirements for
Component **B**
please complete the following test: