

## Additional Resources

We hope that you will feel comfortable coming to the archdiocese with any complaint of sexual abuse so we can support you in your journey toward healing. We understand, however, that you may prefer to contact someone outside the Church.

The following programs in communities around the Archdiocese of Milwaukee provide sexual abuse awareness education and free services to sexual abuse survivors:

### Dodge County

People Against a Violent Environment (PAVE)  
920-887-3785 Or 800-775-3785

### Fond du Lac County

Catholic Charities ..... 920-923-2550  
ASTOP ..... 920-926-5395  
24 Hour Crisis Line ..... 920-926-5395

### Kenosha County

Catholic Charities ..... 262-658-2088  
Women's & Children's Horizons ..... 262-658-9900  
24 Hour Crisis Line ..... 800-853-5303

### Milwaukee County

Catholic Charities ..... 414-771-2881  
The Healing Center..... 414-671-4325  
24 Hour Crisis Line ..... 414-219-5555

### Ozaukee County

Catholic Charities ..... 262-923-2550  
Advocates of Ozaukee 24 Hour  
Crisis Line ..... 262-284-6902

### Racine County

Catholic Charities ..... 262-637-8888  
Sexual Assault Services ..... 262-619-1634  
24 Hour Crisis Line ..... 262-637-7233

### Sheboygan County

Catholic Charities ..... 920-458-5726  
Safe Harbor ..... 920-452-8611  
24 Hour Crisis Line ..... 800-499-7640

### Walworth County

New Beginnings 24 Hour Crisis Line .... 262-723-4653

### Washington County

Catholic Charities ..... 262-334-0886  
Friends of Abused Families ..... 262-334-7298

### Waukesha County

Catholic Charities ..... 262-547-2463  
The Healing Center..... 414-671-4325  
Women's Center 24 Hour Crisis Line ... 262-542-3828

### Statewide

Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual  
Assault ..... 608-257-1516  
24 Hour Crisis Line ..... 800-656-4673

### For more information contact:

Suzanne Nickolai,  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee  
Safe Environment Program Manager  
nickolais@archmil.org—(414) 769-3449

If you believe you or someone you know has been abused or is currently being abused, please contact your local law enforcement agency immediately.

To report an instance of sexual abuse  
by church personnel or clergy to the Church,  
you may also contact the Victim Assistance  
Coordinator at (414) 758-2232



ARCHDIOCESE  
of MILWAUKEE

More information is available  
on the archdiocesan website: [www.archmil.org](http://www.archmil.org)

## SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION & RESPONSE IN THE CHURCH



SAFEGUARDING ALL  
OF GOD'S FAMILY BY WORKING  
TOGETHER FOR A  
SAFE ENVIRONMENT

“The problem is that once sin is rooted into the lives of a community, it is destructive for everyone involved. We have seen the destruction happen. We have seen how trying to protect the institution took precedence over protecting our young people; how a clerical culture protected offenders and exposed children and youth to harm.

Because I am a believer, because I love the Church, and because I know Christ will not abandon us, I accept the collective responsibility of the Church that committed sin; of the individuals who took advantage of innocent individuals; and for Church leaders who hid that sin for decades. For those actions, I apologize to anyone who was abused by someone in the Church, especially those who were children.”

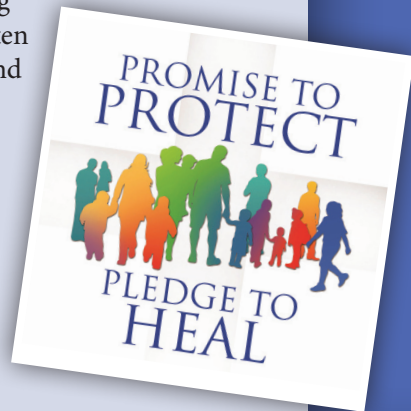
— Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI  
October 4, 2018



## What can I expect if I contact the archdiocese?

If you make a complaint about any abuse by Church personnel, past or present, you can expect that the Victim Assistance Coordinator will listen to you, make a complete report and answer your questions about the process of reporting abuse. The Victim Assistance Coordinator of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee will help you through the reporting process. Making a report is often the first step toward healing and recovery.

If you would feel more comfortable making a report outside the Church structure, call The Healing Center at (414) 671-4325 where an advocate will assist you. The Healing Center has bi-lingual advocates who can take your reports in Spanish.



## What will the archdiocese do about the perpetrator?

**All reports of sexual abuse will be referred immediately to the civil authorities.** The archbishop and other appropriate archdiocesan officials will be notified.

Any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult will result in the alleged perpetrator's temporary removal from ministry until an investigation is concluded.

If civil authorities are unable to pursue an investigation of the allegation, the archdiocese will refer the case to an independent investigator, who will take into account the rights of all parties.

The Diocesan Review Board examines the findings of all investigations and ensures that all perpetrators are permanently removed from ministry.

Throughout this process, the VAC is available for support and is your contact person for status updates.

## How will the archdiocese help me?

It is our responsibility to hear your pain and support your recovery and healing, knowing that nothing by way of apology or resources can fully erase your suffering. We strive to assist each person in an individualized manner with recovery to a healthy and whole life. Resources may include:

- ▶ Psychotherapy with the therapist of your choice at archdiocesan expense.
- ▶ Referral to community agencies and resources
- ▶ Spiritual direction
- ▶ Listening opportunities with the archbishop.



## What is the archdiocese doing to prevent the sexual abuse of other people?

The archdiocese has implemented a comprehensive Safe Environment Program with all personnel, volunteers working with minors, and students in parishes and schools throughout the archdiocese.

**All clergy, personnel, and anyone volunteering with minors must:**

- ▶ Receive training in recognizing and reporting child abuse.
- ▶ Undergo a criminal background check every 5 years.
- ▶ Review and abide by a Code of Ethical Standards
- ▶ Review and understand the Mandatory Reporting Requirements in the State of Wisconsin.

**All students in Catholic programs receive age-appropriate education in recognizing, resisting, and reporting sexual abuse.**

*The relationship between you and the Catholic Church is most sacred. If sexual abuse occurred within that relationship, the entire Church community suffers with you. Church leaders want to help you in the journey toward healing. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee is deeply committed to working with and providing supporting you in this important journey. We want to provide the empathy, understanding and pastoral care to facilitate your recovery and healing.*

## Why does the archdiocese want me to report sexual abuse?

It is very important that you report any instance of abuse for many reasons:

- ▶ So you may begin healing,
- ▶ So justice may be served, and
- ▶ So no one else will be victimized.

When you report an instance of sexual abuse or exploitation to the archdiocese, this triggers a carefully defined process to accomplish several purposes:

- ▶ To ensure that all abuse is reported to appropriate civil and Church authorities.
- ▶ To comply with civil and canon laws and the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.
- ▶ To take every measure possible to hold the perpetrator accountable.
- ▶ To make available resources to help you restore your wholeness.