

Archdiocese of Dubuque Annual Report
Protection of Minors

This report covers the time period from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

The Archdiocese of Dubuque's Policy for the Protection of Minors (hereafter Policy) was approved and promulgated on June 30, 2015. The Policy may be viewed at www.dbqarch.org/Policy-for-Protection-of-Minors

The Policy is the local response to the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops' Charter for Protection of Children. The four main goals of the Charter are:

1. To Promote Healing and Reconciliation with Victims/Survivors of Sexual Abuse of Minors
2. To Guarantee an Effective Response to Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors
3. To Ensure the Accountability of Our Procedures
4. To Protect the Faithful in the Future

TO PROMOTE HEALING AND RECONCILIATION

The Archdiocese continues to operate the Office for Protection of Children. Ms. Carol Gebhart is the current Director.

The Archdiocese provides services (counseling, psychotherapy, spiritual direction, reading materials) to victims.

Victim Assistance Coordinator and Archdiocesan personnel continue to work with individuals who have previously made reports of abuse by anyone in church service.

The Archdiocese placed paid announcements about how to report sexual abuse in Archdiocesan and major secular newspapers in Northeast Iowa.

TO GUARANTEE AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS

During the 2016-17 year, the Archdiocese did not receive any new allegations claiming sexual abuse of a minor.

The Archdiocese has contracted Dr. Thomas Ottavi to serve as Victim Assistance Coordinator.

TO ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY

Archdiocesan Review Board

Per the Policy, the Archdiocesan Review Board has been appointed and acts as a consultative body to hold the Archdiocese accountable in its mission to uphold the

principles of the Charter. The following individuals served as members of the Board during part or all of the year: Dr. Thomas Anderegg (Dubuque), Mr. John E. Beckman (Waterloo), Pastor Stephen Brackett (Waverly), Hon. Randal Nigg (Dubuque), Deacon Michael Klappholz (Cedar Rapids), Ms. Gerilyn Konrardy (Dyersville), Rev. Michael Schueller (Epworth), and Deacon Gerald T. Jorgensen.

This report affords the opportunity to express gratitude to all members of the Board, past and present, for their work and dedication to the protection of children.

Independent Audit for Compliance

The Archdiocese fully participated in the annual audit conducted by Stoneridge Business Partners. The letter of compliance can be viewed at www.dbqarch.org/protectionofchildren/annual-audit-summaries

The Archdiocese participated in the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) study for the 2016-17 year.

TO PROTECT THE FAITHFUL IN THE FUTURE

Employees/Volunteers

All employees and regular volunteers who have contact with children have criminal and abuse background checks and safe environment training.

Educational Programs

All youth enrolled in Catholic school and religious education programs participate in safe environment training. Parents receive educational newsletters on safety topics.

Screening of Candidates for the Priesthood/Diaconate

The Archdiocese has an established screening process for candidates for priesthood and the diaconate.

Collaboration with Superiors of Religious Communities of Men

Officials of the Archdiocese communicate with the Superiors of clerical religious communities with members in the Archdiocese to coordinate their roles and responsibilities.