

**EXCERPTS
FROM THE DIOCESE OF SPOKANE
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES/PROCEDURES: PREVENTION, EDUCATION, AND REPORTING
OF ABUSE**

The Duty to Report

Church persons who suspect that a minor or a legally vulnerable adult has suffered sexual abuse, regardless of who caused the abuse, are required to report the abuse to CPS/APS and law enforcement and the diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator (VAC).

Legally mandated reporters can be held accountable by the state of Washington should they fail to report.

If the victim is in imminent danger, call 911 immediately, then notify the VAC.

If the victim is not in imminent danger, the victim and/or representative is directed to contact law enforcement, CPS/APS and the VAC within 48 hours of learning of the abuse, regardless of how much time has passed since the abuse occurred.

Church persons who supervise others are required to report suspected sexual abuse of minors or legally vulnerable adults by those whom they supervise.

When a church person discovers that another church person has acquired, possessed, or distributed pornographic images of a minor, the person making the discovery must report to law enforcement and the VAC when the discovery is made.

Church persons who report abuse or child pornography to law enforcement and/or CPS/APS must also complete a diocesan Notice of Report (see Form 401 on webpage), submit it to the VAC, and keep a copy.

To report abuse by a Catholic Bishop, or a Bishop's mishandling of abuse accusations, click on the National Reporting page on the website home page or call **1-800- 276-1562**. This includes Article 1, Part B of Vos Estes Lux Mundi.

If unsure how to proceed, CPS/APS and the VAC welcomes calls for consultation.

ENDHARM: 1-866-ENDHARM (1-866-363-4276)

VAC: 1-509-353-0442