

REPORTING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT BY A BISHOP

The Archeparchy of Philadelphia is providing help to those who may have been sexually abused specifically by a Bishop in the Ukrainian Catholic Church or in general by any Bishop of the Catholic Church. It participates in the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting System**. An allegation against a Bishop may be made online at **ReportBishopAbuse.org** or by calling **1-800-276-1562**. It is a safe secure and confidential platform.

The Archeparchy is participating in a third party service which will gather the complaint/allegation and relay the information to the appropriate Church official.

A) **Convercent, Inc.** is the third party provider who gathers and routes the information to the appropriate Church official so the allegation may be investigated. The company does not conduct the investigation. Again, please contact them by either means of the following to report an allegation against a Bishop: online at **ReportBishopAbuse.org** or by calling **1-800-276-1562**.

B) Misconduct by a Bishop would include:

- Forcing someone to perform or to submit to sexual acts through violence, threats of abuse of authority
- Has performed sexual act(s) with a minor or a vulnerable person
- Produced, exhibited, possessed or distributed child pornography, or recruited or induced a minor or a vulnerable person to participate in pornographic exhibitions

This would include a Bishop or cleric (Administrator) overseeing an (Arch)Eparchy in the absence of a Bishop, who, in the exercise of their duties and office, intentionally interfered with a Church or civil investigation into allegations of sexual abuse committed by a cleric or religious.

C) When making the report, one must include

- the name of the Bishop being reported
- a description of the allegation, the place where it occurred and the timeframe of Any or all information which includes names of other individuals involved, dates, times, known circumstances of any useful information to help in the assessment of the facts.

D) When a report has been submitted

- the person making the report will be given an access number and personal password that may be used to track the status of the report. Automated status reports can be provided but also a confidential means of communication giving more information is available
- the report will be forwarded to the proper Church official. In the case of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Metropolitan Borys Gudziak will be informed of the

allegation of the offending Bishop. If the allegation is made against the Metropolitan, then the senior Bishop will be notified. In the case of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, the Bishop would be His Grace, Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, O.S.B.M. of the Eparchy of Stamford.

- the report will also be relayed to a lay person who has been designated to assist the Bishop in receiving such reports

- some reports, especially involving minors, will be reported to law enforcement officials

- the Metropolitan (or Senior Bishop) and designated lay person will review the report

- the Metropolitan will send the report to the Apostolic Nuncio along with an initial assessment

- the Apostolic Nuncio will send both the Metropolitan's assessment and the report made by the one making the report of the allegation to the appropriate office in the Holy See

- within 30 days, the Holy See will determine if a formal investigation is needed. If so determined, a Bishop will be authorized to oversee the investigation

- if an investigation is ordered, it will be done by qualified experts, which include lay persons. The investigation should be completed within 90 days

- once the conclusions of the investigation are sent to the Holy See, it will initiate the process that will lead to a final judgment

E) The following should not be reported in this system:

- any other complaints such as theological or liturgical concerns, clergy assignments, church mergers or closings.

- reporting of sexual abuse committed by the clergy or Church personnel. That should be reported to the Archeparchy's Victim's Assistant Coordinator.

- this service will not contact law enforcement when an allegation is reported

ReportBishopAbuse.org

Call: 1-800-276-1562