



### Key Points of Diocesan Policy

- All employees must undergo background screening. This includes:
  - All Priests, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters
  - All Parish and School Employees
  - All Diocesan Ministerial Offices throughout the State
- All volunteers with access to minors in parishes, schools or associated ministries, must undergo background screening.
- All employees, as listed above, and all volunteers, must receive education in the prevention of child sexual abuse.
- All minors in Catholic Schools and in Parish Religious Education and Youth ministries are also offered education to keep themselves safe and to teach them how to report situations that make them uncomfortable.
- The State of South Carolina has laws governing Mandatory Reporters, outlining which professions are mandated to report, such as, teachers, doctors, etc.
- The Bishop of Charleston, via his *Policy Concerning Allegations of Sexual Misconduct or Abuse of a Minor By Church Personnel (2012)*, asks that all Church Personnel (employees and volunteers and described above) act as Mandatory Reporters.
- All Church Personnel are required to know to whom and how to report allegations of abuse.
- All Church Personnel must read and sign a Code of Conduct, governing their interactions with minors.
- All Church Personnel must sign an acknowledgment that they have read and understand the *Policy Concerning Allegations of Sexual Misconduct or Abuse of a Minor By Church Personnel (2012)*, asks that all Church Personnel.



- The police will be called to report all allegations of abuse suspected at the hands of someone from outside the family.
- The Department of Social Services will be called for suspected abuse at the hands of family members.
- The diocese employs a Victim Assistant Coordinator, Louisa Storen, MSW, LMFT, designated to receive calls from victims or anyone who wishes to report abuse on behalf of a victim, to receive outreach.
- All diocesan parishes and schools are required to display “How to Report” information, visible to everyone on site.
- The Diocese is audited annually on how well we follow our own policy and how reflective our policies are of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*.
- Information on the Charter, our Policy and all associated materials are found on our webpage at <https://charlestdioocese.org/child-and-youth-protection/>

