

**THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT
OFFICE OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT**

REPORTING SUSPECTED ABUSE OF A MINOR OR VULNERABLE ADULT

All Members of the Clergy, Seminarians, Religious Sisters and Brothers, Lay employees, Volunteers and Independent contractors are required to make a report to the Diocese and to Civil authorities of any suspicion of sexual abuse, other forms of child abuse, any risk of injury to a minor or vulnerable adult or knowledge of someone in possession of child pornography If you suspect abuse or misconduct involving any person from the Church (whether the incident occurred recently or in the past) report that information immediately to:

**Erin Neil, L.C.S.W., Director of Safe Environment & Victim Assistance Coordinator
Office: (203) 416-1406 Cell: (203) 650-3265 eneil@diobpt.org.**

AND

**The CT Department of Children and Family (D.C.F.) Child Abuse and Neglect
Care-line within (12- Hours) of first becoming aware
1-800-842-2288**

Immediately call police (911) for any imminent risk. For suspected abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult, call the police in the town where the incident occurred.

Mandated Reporters are required by law to report directly to D.C.F. and/or to the Police any **suspicion** of abuse of a minor, risk of injury to a minor, child pornography, exploitation or neglect. This document is in addition to CT mandated reporting guidelines. **Mandated reporters who fail to report suspected abuse of a minor or risk of injury within 12-hours of becoming aware, will be reported to the Chief State's Attorney and may be charged with a felony. Third party information is reportable to D.C.F. and proof is not a required for making a report.** Within 48-hours of your report to DCF, submit the 136-form to DCF and to Erin Neil.

SUSPECTED BOUNDARY VIOLATIONS, SUSPECTED GROOMING BEHAVIORS TOWARD MINORS OR A VULNERABLE ADULT: Call the Safe Environment Office with what you know, even if you only have limited information. Suspected grooming behaviors toward minors must also be reported to the police and to the D.C.F. Care-line.

Protective Services for the Elderly (elder abuse, neglect, exploitation or abandonment) 1-888-385-4225 or Info-line at 211 (after hours)	Adults with Disability (victim age 18-59) Call the AID Abuse Investigation Division 1-844-878-8923
Third Party Reporting: Survivor and Witness Hotline 1-833-990-0004 www.lighthouse-services.com/diobpt	To Report Sexual Misconduct by a U.S. Bishop 1-800-276-1562 / https://reportbishopabuse.org and/or (860) 541-6475.

All information will be handled with a high level of confidentiality however, full anonymity cannot be guaranteed in cases involving abuse of a minor or a vulnerable adult.

TRAINING FOR MANDATED REPORTERS: <https://portal.ct.gov/DCF/Mandated-Reporter-Training/Home>
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