

What can you do as a parent?

- **Be attentive** to any changes in your child's behavior, activities, friends
- **Be aware** of your child receiving unexpected gifts or attention
- **Listen** carefully to what your child says to you and to others
- **Check** your child's history on any electronic device such as phones and computers
- **Show** positive signs of affection toward your child
- **Ask** where your child is going and who he/she will be with

In continuing our commitment to support and to facilitate healing, we invite and encourage individuals who have been hurt or sexually abused recently or in the past by clergy, religious, other church employees or volunteers of the diocese contact:

Valerie McClellan

Victim Assistance Coordinator

(601) 326-3728

Your Role in Safe Environments

As an employee or volunteer, you play a vital role in creating a safe environment for children and vulnerable adults.

To ensure the safety of everyone, especially those at risk we:

- **NEVER** leave children alone in the classroom or on field trips;
- **ONLY MEET** alone with a child in an area visible to others;
- **ALWAYS** monitor access to the building;
- **ARE ALERT** to strangers hanging around the area;
- **CHECK** secluded areas, bathrooms, etc.;
- **EXPECT** supervisors to look in on activities;
- **HAVE** at least one adult female involved in the supervision of preschool children;
- **HAVE** two or more adults present for events involving children or youth in higher risk settings.

*The **Diocese of Jackson** will cooperate with parents, civil authorities, educators, and community organizations to provide education and training for children, youth, parents, ministers, and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children. The Diocese will make clear to clergy and members of the community the standards of conduct for clergy and other persons in positions of trust with regard to sexual abuse.*

(Article 12, Charter for the Protections of Children and Young People, USCCB)

Catholic Diocese of Jackson

Protection of Children

Commitment to Safe Environments



F
A
C
T
S

- Abuse is never a child's fault.
- A report of child abuse is made every ten seconds nationally.
- About 90% of the sexual abuse cases involve a person close and known to a child.
- The majority of children who are sexually abused know their abuser.
- Most children never tell about their abuse.
- Child sexual abuse can be prevented.
- There are over 650,000 registered sex offenders in the United States.
- Children tell the truth about being abused 95% of the time.

To speak to a trained child welfare worker to report possible abuse or neglect contact:

Department of Human Services
750 North State Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39202
1-800-222-8000
(601) 359-4991

You may also contact your local police to report the abuse.

Reminders

- If you have cause to believe a child's physical or mental health is endangered as a result of abuse or neglect, you must contact the Department of Human Services.
- Reporting suspected abuse or neglect is a request for an investigation. It is not an accusation.

**REPORTING
INFORMATION**

Name and address of child;

Name and address of his/her parents or other persons responsible for his/her care;

The child's age;

Nature and extent of the child's injury, including any evidence or previous injuries;

Any other information that might be helpful in establishing the cause of the injury and the identity of the perpetrator;

Name and address of the suspected perpetrator if known.

Protection of Children
Policies of the
Diocese of Jackson
are located on our
website:
www.jacksondiocese.org