Dallas Charter

- “Dioceses/eparchies are to reach out to victims/survivors and their families and demonstrate a sincere commitment to their spiritual and emotional well-being. **The first obligation of the Church with regard to the victims is for healing and reconciliation.**”

- “Each diocese/eparchy will designate a competent person to coordinate assistance for the immediate pastoral care of persons who claim to have been sexually abused when they were minors by priests or deacons.”
Standard 8:

- The Institute must identify a representative, qualified by education, training or experience, to respond to those who allege sexual abuse of a minor.
- When a person comes forward with an allegation of being sexually abused as a minor, representatives of the Institute will provide a guide and explain the procedure that the Institute typically follows in responding to the allegation.
Standard 9:
- Representatives of the Institute who are responsible for assisting individuals who have alleged sexual abuse as a minor must have education, training, and/or experience with the following content areas:
  a. Dynamics of sexual abuse
  b. Effects of sexual abuse
  c. How to provide comfort to those who have experienced sexual abuse
  d. How to encourage trust in those who report being sexually abused as a minor
  e. How to promote healing
Standard 8:
Representatives of the Institute will respond pastorally and compassionately to any person who alleges sexual abuse of a minor by a Member of the Institute.

Standard 10:
Representatives of the Institute will make a significant effort to promote the healing process for individuals who allege being sexually abused as a minor.
Titles

• Victim Assistance Coordinator
• Victim Advocate
• Director of Pastoral Response
• Coordinator of Pastoral Support and Outreach
• Director of Safe Environment
“The Victim Assistance Coordinator is a person, appointed by the Provincial, who has expertise in counseling and dealing with victims of sexual abuse who are minors or vulnerable adults. The Victim Assistance Coordinator is not a member of the Review Board. The Victim Assistance Coordinator maintains a professional relationship with the alleged victim and/or family and does not act officially as a therapist, attorney, or spiritual director.”
Policy (con’t)

“The Victim Assistance Coordinator’s duties include the following:

• To receive initial calls from persons reporting abuse or possible abuse by a priest or brother,
• To listen with respect to the alleged victim and/or family;
• To assist alleged victims of clerical abuse in making a formal complaint of abuse to the Province,
• To assist in locating support and professional resources for the specific needs of the alleged victim, the alleged victim’s family and other affected persons, assisting with referrals to therapists and/or support groups;
Policy (con’t)

• To explain to the alleged victim the Province’s response to the allegations raised;
• To help arrange with the Province for pastoral care of victims of clerical abuse by a priest or brother;
• To offer to be present during meetings between the alleged victim and/or family and the Province, including the Provincial and/or the Review Board; and
• To coordinate all communications between the alleged victim and/or family and the Province, keeping all parties apprised of developments in the case.”
The Maryland Province, consistent with the directives of the Catholic Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, benefit from the counsel of a Review Board. This board of predominantly lay persons from several relevant professions advises the Maryland Province on all matters related to sexual misconduct.

Preventing Sexual Misconduct
In addition to establishing procedures for responding to sexual misconduct, the Maryland Province Jesuits have undertaken a series of measures to prevent abuse. These include extensive mandatory psychological evaluations of seminarians and novices before they enter the Society of Jesus and providing continuing education programs for Jesuits about issues of sexuality and personal conduct.

IT IS OUR FIRM BELIEF that the Jesuits of the Maryland Province must maintain appropriate boundaries with laypersons in order to preserve the integrity of the ministerial relationship.

Moreover, we call upon those with knowledge of a Jesuit's inappropriate behavior — whether past or present — to come forward and report this information to civil authorities and the Province so that innocent victims may be spared from further harm.

In short, we ask everyone to join us with firm determination to protect the safety of children, women and men, and to promote healing where there is pain.

Where to turn for help
If you or someone you know believe that a Maryland Jesuit has violated the boundaries outlined in this brochure, we urge you to report such behavior immediately to the Maryland Province. Your case will be handled with the strictest sensitivity and confidentiality.

Office of the Provincial
Very Rev. Robert Hessey, SJ, Provincial
Maryland Province Jesuits
8600 LaSalle Road, Suite 620
Towson, MD 21286
443-921-1315

Victim Assistance Coordinator
Kristin Austin, LGSW-C
Maryland Province Jesuits
8600 LaSalle Road, Suite 620
Towson, MD 21286
443-370-6357

Presented by the Maryland Province Jesuits
THE MARYLAND PROVINCE OF THE
Society of Jesus recognizes that sexual misconduct by members of religious institutes constitutes a profound violation of trust in human and professional relationships and can cause confusion and devastating pain for the abused, their families, the local community and the Church at large. We are aware of the effects of this tragic behavior and have developed a steadfast commitment to helping those affected.

This brochure is intended to answer several questions:

- What is sexual misconduct within ministerial relations?
- What are the procedures for responding to complaints of sexually inappropriate behavior?
- Where can victims of sexual misconduct turn for help?

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT IN A MINISTERIAL RELATIONSHIP

A ministerial relationship is one in which a person receives pastoral care from a priest, brother, sister, spiritual director, pastoral counselor or other church worker.

Sexual Misconduct is a general term that encompasses sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

Sexual Exploitation consists of sexual contact between a priest or brother and a person in a ministerial relationship with him.

Sexual Abuse is sexual contact between a priest or brother and a minor or vulnerable adult.

Sexual exploitation or sexual abuse can include physical contact or actions such as:
- sexual touch or other physical contact that makes the person being touched feel uncomfortable;
- giving a sexually charged gift (such as lingerie);
- a prolonged hug when a brief hug is customary behavior;
- kissing on the lips when a kiss on the cheek would be appropriate;
- showing sexually suggestive objects or pornography;
- sexual intercourse, anal or oral sex.

Sexual exploitation or sexual abuse can include verbal behavior such as:
- innuendo or sexual talk not properly or legitimately related to genuine counseling;
- suggestive comments;
- descriptions of sexual experiences, fantasies or conflicts;
- sexual propositions.

Sexual misconduct — whether exploitation or abuse — by Jesuits, employees or volunteers is contrary to Catholic moral teaching, doctrine and Canon (Church) and civil law.

Sexual Misconduct is never acceptable in a pastoral relationship with a parishioner, employee, student, spiritual directee, counseling client or anyone who has sought the assistance of the Church.

It is not uncommon for those who seek assistance through the ministry of the Church to feel attracted to a religious (priest, brother or sister) or to be flattered by his or her attention.

Notwithstanding this, a person’s attraction to a Jesuit or enjoyment in being the center of his sexual interest does not excuse any form of sexual misconduct by the Jesuit. It is entirely the responsibility of the Jesuit priest or brother to maintain appropriate emotional and sexual boundaries with those with whom he works and/or ministers.

How the Maryland Province Jesuits Respond to Complaints of Sexual Misconduct

The Jesuits respond to all allegations of sexual misconduct with great care. The Maryland Province has dedicated personnel to ensure that each allegation is handled promptly, thoroughly, and compassionately. The Province will respond swiftly to evaluate and investigate any accusation of sexual misconduct by one of its members. It is the responsibility of the victim assistance coordinator to provide referrals and information to those who come forward.

The victim assistance coordinator may facilitate psychological and/or pastoral counseling for those affected by sexual misconduct as appropriate.

While confidentiality is a foremost concern, the Jesuits are not able to guarantee that the information received about abuse will never be disclosed, and may have an accompanying obligation to make a report of abuse allegations to proper civil authorities.
In Practice....

- PERSON WHO RECEIVES ALLEGATIONS
- OFFER TO MEET WITH THE INDIVIDUAL
- ONGOING POC
- PRESENCE/INVOLVEMENT WITH REVIEW BOARD
- RESOURCE/SUPPORT IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT
- FAMILY SUPPORT, ATTENDING TO VICARIOUS TRAUMA
ABVs and Harassment
How can dioceses/archdioceses and religious institutes best work together for victim-survivors?
“God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in distress.”

Psalms 46:2