

## Our Mission

To offer a safe place for you to come forward and share your story

To listen and acknowledge what you have experienced

To promote healing and reconciliation and accompany you on this journey

To assist you in accessing services that address your emotional, psychological and spiritual well-being, such as counseling and spiritual direction

To reach out with compassion, acceptance, privacy and respect



“The first obligation of the Church with regard to the victims is for healing and reconciliation.”

United States Conference  
of Catholic Bishops

If you or someone you know has been abused, exploited or harassed by a clergy member, religious brother or sister or lay employee or volunteer of a parish, or Catholic school, your first call should be to law enforcement.

You are also encouraged to contact the archdiocese’s Victim Assistance Program at **651-291-4475**.

For confidential, compassionate assistance from an independent and professional local care provider, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, contact Canvas Health at 651-291-4497.

## Victim/Survivor Assistance

PROMISE TO  
PROTECT



PLEDGE TO  
HEAL

## A safe place to come forward

Archdiocese Victim Assistance

**651-291-4475**

## **We Want to Help**

To those who have been abused, we are truly sorry for the pain you and your loved ones have suffered.

We are committed to listening to you, addressing your needs and concerns, and doing all we can to prevent any more harm.

Taking that first, courageous step to report abuse is not easy. For many people, the strength to do so comes after years of anguish, anger and a deep sense of betrayal.

We have partnered with Canvas Health, a trusted local care provider, to offer you a safe and compassionate place to come forward.

Independent professionals are available through Canvas Health 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to take your call at 651-291-4497.

You may also wish to contact the archdiocese's Victim Assistance Program at **651-291-4475**.

## **What To Expect When You Call**

When you call Canvas Health, a compassionate and professional intake representative will be there to help.

The representative will ask for some basic information, including the circumstances of the abuse, the identity of the abuser, and your contact information.

The representative is a mandated reporter and will report child abuse to law enforcement as required by law, but won't share your name with the archdiocese if you do not want your name to be shared.

You will be assisted in obtaining services such as professional counseling and pastoral care.

If you want to meet with an archdiocesan official as a part of your healing process or have another request of the Church, the archdiocese will be contacted and will take action.

## **Ministry-related Sexual Misconduct**

**Sexual abuse** is sexual contact between individuals when one does not or cannot consent, or the sexual contact involves a minor or vulnerable adult.

**Sexual exploitation** occurs when there is sexual contact between a Church minister and a person receiving pastoral care from that minister.

**Sexual harassment** is unwanted sexual conduct or language in the Church work setting.

When a clergy member, religious brother or sister, or lay employee or volunteer of a parish or Catholic school engages in misconduct, they violate a sacred trust and they are to blame for the resulting pain and suffering.

You are not at fault for what you were forced to endure. The abuser is at fault.