

REPORTING ABUSE BY CHURCH PERSONNEL OR VOLUNTEERS: CALL

- Victim Assistance Coordinator, Roberta Smith: (509) 353-0442 (confidential, direct line)
- Vicar General, Father Steve Dublinski: (509) 358-7303 (confidential, direct line)
- Write to the Diocese at:
Catholic Diocese of Spokane
P.O. Box 1453, Spokane, WA 99210

Address your letter to any of these individuals:

- Bishop William Skylstad
- Father Dublinski • Roberta Smith

Mark your letter "Personal and Confidential"

Another option: You may request your counselor or attorney to contact us. If you are unsure of how best to do this, please *do not hesitate* to contact Roberta Smith at the above address, phone number, or via e-mail: rvsmith@dioceseofspokane.org

To report abuse by any Church personnel or volunteer, in addition to reporting to the agencies below, please report to the Catholic Diocese of Spokane.

REPORTING OBSERVED OR SUSPICIONS OF CHILD ABUSE

Reports should be made to Child Protective Services and local law enforcement agencies.

Child Abuse/Neglect Referrals:

Child Protective Services, Spokane County
(509) 363-3333 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
800-557-9671 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
800-562-5624 (Weekends, and after 4:30 p.m.)
Department of Social and Health Services
866-363-4276 (State-wide)

Law Enforcement

Adams County: (509) 659-1122
Asotin County: (509) 243-4171
Columbia County: (509) 382-2518
Ferry County: (509) 775-3132
Franklin County: (509) 545-3500
Lincoln County: (509) 725-3501
Garfield County: (509) 843-3493
Pend Oreille County: 1-800-669-3407
Spokane Crime Reporting: (509) 532-9266
Stevens County: 1-800-572-0947
Walla Walla County: (509) 527-3265
Whitman County: (509) 397-6266
After 5 p.m.: 397-4341

Resources in Spokane

- Catholic Charities: (509) 358-4250
- Lutheran Victim Rights Response Team
Crises Line: (509) 624-7273
For appointments, ask for "Advocacy":
(509) 747-8224
- Vanessa Behan Respite Services
(509) 535-3155
- End Harm: 1-866-363-4276
After hours: 1-800-562-5624
- Children's Home Society of Washington:
(509) 747-4174
- Crime Victim Crises Line: (509) 624-7273
- Fairchild Air Force Base Family Advocacy:
(509) 247-2687
- Partners with Families and Children:
Stewards of Children: (509) 473-4810

Local Resources

Please write in your local numbers for quick reference.

Helpful Links

<http://www.aacap.org/publications/factsfam/sexabuse.htm>
<http://www.usccb.org/comm/restoretrust.htm>
<http://www.stopsexualabuse.com/>
http://www.stopitnow.com/resourceguide/guide_alpha.html
http://www.dioceseofspokane.org/Safe_Children/Index.htm
www.childhelp.org

© 2007 Catholic Diocese of Spokane, Washington
All Rights Reserved

A Safe Net For Children and Youth

Catholic Diocese of
Spokane, Washington



"Please listen to me"
"Please believe me"

Five Promises to Our Children

1. Caring adults.
2. Safe places and constructive activities.
3. A healthy start and future.
4. Effective education for marketable skills.
5. Opportunities to serve.

Diocesan Policies and Procedures

April 30, 2007

My Dear People of God,

In response to the sexual abuse scandal that has plagued our Church, the Bishops of the United States adopted a Charter in June 2002, which was reviewed and strengthened in 2005.

In this brochure we include information we hope you will find useful as we work together to prevent sexual abuse from ever occurring in our parish communities, in our cities, in our families.

As part of the Bishops' Charter, we made the commitment to create places of safety for our children and youth. Our goal is to create safe environments for everyone.

We know that alone, we can neither influence the healing process nor prevent abuse in the future. It takes all of us to solve this problem. Please join me. Let us pray together and work together to bring healing and safety to our communities.

Sincerely,

+ Bishop William S. Skylstad

- Zero tolerance for sexual abuse and harassment.
- For comprehensive policies and resources, refer to:
www.dioceseofspokane.org/safe_children.htm

The Most Common Symptoms of Child Sexual Abuse

The following is a list of common signs and symptoms that a child may be suffering from sexual abuse. The list is not inclusive. These are common indicators. Interest and curiosity about sexual matters are normal; excessive or compulsive interest in sexual matters may indicate a need for professional help.

- Acting out sexual behavior
- Excessive touching of genitals
- Sexually transmitted diseases or urinary infections
- Chronic stomach aches, vomiting
- An abrupt change in personality or behavior
- Drastic change in appetite – self-mutilation
- Withdrawal/depression
- Regressive behavior – thumb sucking
- Consistently anxious, fearful, irritable
- Over-compliance
- Running away, stealing, lying
- Early arrival at school, or reluctance to go home
- Asks people to take their clothes off
- Sexual behavior with peers or adults

Potential Perpetrator *Red Flags*

- Is secretive and promotes secrets
- Wants to spend more time with your child than you do, and usually comes “bearing gifts”
- Limits contact with other children, especially those of the opposite sex

Child Abuse Prevention Tips

- Participate in your child's activities and get to know your child's friends.
- Never leave your child unattended, especially in the car.
- Teach your child the difference between “good touches,” “bad touches,” and “confusing touches.”
- Ask questions. For example, when your child tells you he/she doesn't want to be with someone, this could be a red flag.
- Teach your child the correct names of his/her body parts.
- Be alert to any talk that reveals premature sexual understanding.
- Pay attention when someone shows greater than normal interest in your child.
- Make certain that your child's day care will release him/her only to you or someone whom you officially designate.

Above all

If your child tells you something “bad, awful, terrible” happened –

Believe your child.

Listen and get help.