

Diocese of Brooklyn

Reporting and Referral Policy

The Diocese of Brooklyn is committed to the protection of minors¹, and the expectation of transparency as set forth in the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (hereinafter, the “Charter”). Specifically, Article 7 of the Charter states:

Dioceses/eparchies are to be open and transparent in communicating with the public about sexual abuse of minors by clergy within the confines of respect for the privacy and the reputation of the individuals involved. This is especially so with regard to informing parish and other church communities directly affected by sexual abuse of a minor.

Further to that commitment, the Diocese has adopted the following policies and procedures:

- Once an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor is received at the toll-free Reporting Line or via the online form, it will be forwarded to (a) appropriate law enforcement authority, which includes the local District Attorney’s office and, in some cases described in the Policy and Procedures Regarding Sexual Abuse of Minors, the Special Victims Division of the New York Police Department; (b) the Bishop; (c) the Victim Assistance Coordinator; and (d) the Director of the Office for Protection of Children and Young People. During the term of the Monitorship described in the April 16, 2024 Assurance of Discontinuance with the New York Attorney General, the allegations will also be forwarded to the Independent Monitor described in the *Assurance* and the Office of the New York Attorney General. An allegation of improper conduct (as defined in the Diocese’s Policy and Procedures Regarding Sexual Abuse of Minors Policy) that does not involve sexual abuse will be reported to the parties listed in (b)–(d).
- All referral letters or references for clergy, employees, or volunteers for the Diocese will be accurate and complete.
- If an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor or related improper conduct has been made against a clergy² member, employee, or volunteer, and that allegation has been determined to be credible, any referral letter or reference must note that credible allegation.

¹ A minor is defined as any person who is not yet eighteen years of age, or one who habitually lacks the use of reason, in compliance with the *Charter*.

² The term “clergy,” as used herein, is understood to be coextensive with bishops, deacons, Diocesan priests, and Order priests, who serve within the territory of the Diocese of Brooklyn.

- If the Diocese learns that a clergy member against whom a credible abuse or improper conduct allegation has been made is moving outside the territory of the Diocese, the Diocese will alert the diocese in the area to which the clergy member is moving of the move and that the clergy member has been credibly accused.
- The Diocese maintains and keeps current and available on its website the list of credibly accused clergy, which is currently available at <https://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/protecting-children/sex-abuse-crisis-response/list/>. The list, at a minimum, discloses the name of each cleric, the date of ordination, all assignments, each cleric's status and, if deceased, the date of death.