

Parish Bulletin Insert Announcement:

Reporting Abuse/Pastoral Response Hotline

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City through its programs, organizations and events, has numerous daily contacts with many children and young people. It is, therefore, important that all Archdiocesan Personnel, clergy, seminarians, religious, employees and volunteers, protect the rights of children and be alert to the possibility of child abuse.

Under Oklahoma State law, all individuals **MUST** report an incident or suspicious of sexual abuse of a minor (person under 18 years of age) to the civil authorities. The Oklahoma Department of Human Services has established a statewide abuse reporting hotline for reporting: **1-800-522-3511**. This number is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. **If you feel a child is in immediate danger of harm call 911.**

For the safety of children and the healing of victims, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City provides and Abuse of Minors Pastoral Response Hotline for reporting the abuse of a minor (in the past or presently) by a member of the clergy or other church personnel: **1-405-720-9878**. The Archdiocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator, a licensed professional counselor, will respond to calls to the Archdiocesan Pastoral Response Hotline.

A report to the Archdiocese does not relieve the individual of the duty to report child abuse to civil authorities as required by Oklahoma State Law. In Oklahoma, failure to report child abuse is a misdemeanor punishable in law.
