

## Bulletin Announcement

Please include the following announcement in your Sunday bulletin (at your earliest convenience). This is to fulfill our promise from the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, Article 2: "*The procedures for those making a complaint are to be readily available in printed form in the principal languages in which the liturgy is celebrated in the diocese/eparchy and be the subject of public announcements at least annually.*"

### **Diocese of Winona-Rochester - Child Sexual Abuse Policy Information**

The Diocese of Winona-Rochester will provide a prompt, appropriate and compassionate response to reporters of sexual abuse of a child by any diocesan agent (employees, volunteers, vendors, religious or clergy). Anyone wishing to make a report of an allegation of sexual abuse should call the Victim Assistance

Coordinator at 507-454-2270, Extension 255. A caller will be asked to provide his or her name and telephone number. Individuals are also encouraged to take their reports directly to civil authorities. The

Diocese of Winona-Rochester is committed to protecting children, young people and other vulnerable people in our schools, parishes and ministries. The diocesan policy is available on the diocesan web site at [www.dowr.org](http://www.dowr.org) under the Safe Environment Program. If you have any questions about the Diocese of Winona's implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, please contact Michael Gerard, at 507-361-3377, or [mgerard@dowr.org](mailto:mgerard@dowr.org).

Anyone working or volunteering in a Catholic parish or school is a mandated reporter. Anyone who knows or has reason to believe that a minor (a person under the age of 18) or vulnerable adult is or has been abused or neglected, must report all suspected abuse or neglect to proper civil authorities/law enforcement within 24 hours of the abuse or neglect becoming known to him or her and must also follow up with a written report to civil authorities within 72 hours, exclusive of weekends and holidays. Many people working or volunteering in a Catholic parish or school, including clergy, are mandated reporters under state law.

The Spanish version should also be included in those parishes where the liturgy is celebrated in Spanish.

### **Procedimientos diocesanos para hacer frente al abuso sexual de menores**

La Diócesis de Winona-Rochester se ha comprometido a proteger a los niños, los jóvenes y otras personas vulnerables en nuestras escuelas, parroquias y actividades apostólicas. Tenemos un cuidado especial y la intención permanente de atender eventuales víctimas de abuso sexual y sus familias. Para informarnos sobre alegaciones actuales de abuso sexual por parte de miembros del clero o empleados laicos o voluntarios en la Diócesis de Winona-Rochester contacte: 507-454-2270, Extensión 255 Víctimas de abuso sexual, además de contactar a las autoridades civiles, se les pide de dirigirse a la diócesis para recibir asistencia pastoral. El Coordinado de Asistencia a la Victim le proveerá tal asistencia.

“Cualquier persona que trabaje o sea voluntario en una parroquia o escuela católica, tiene la obligación de reportar o denunciar abusos o negligencias. Cualquier persona que sepa o tenga razones para creer que un menor (una persona menor de 18 años) o un adulto vulnerable es o ha sido abusado o ignorado, debe denunciar toda sospecha de abuso o abandono a las autoridades civiles o autoridades policiales pertinentes dentro de las 24 horas desde que tuvo conocimiento del asunto y además deberá dar seguimiento haciendo un informe escrito a las autoridades civiles dentro de un margen de 72 horas, excluyendo fines de semana y feriados”.

<http://www.dowr.org/offices/safe-environment/report-a-complaint.html>

Must be published in the parish and school bulletin at least once a year. More often is better.