

The Office for Protection of Children and Youth remains committed to fulfill the requirements of the 2002 Dallas Charter — **to protect and to heal.**

The Office for the Protection of Children and Youth provides support to abuse survivors and their families, and trains adults and children on how to recognize and prevent sexual abuse. It supports parishes and schools as they comply with the policies and procedures of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

It does this through the offices listed in this brochure.

The Archdiocese of Chicago has had an assistance ministry office since 1992. The office provides pastoral support to those harmed by clergy sexual abuse and their loved ones. In 2011 a Healing Garden was dedicated as a place of refuge, prayer, reflection and solitude to those harmed by abuse.

Since 2003 the Archdiocese of Chicago has screened 253,000 archdiocesan employees and volunteers and trained 143,000 archdiocesan employees and volunteers to recognize and prevent abuse. Between 80,000 and 215,000 children have been trained each year to recognize, resist and report abuse. There have been more than 8,000 training sessions, conducted by 300 facilitators.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
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Who We Are

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To report allegations of the abuse of children directly to civil authorities call the **Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)**

In Illinois
call: **1-800-25-ABUSE**
(1-800-252-2873)

Outside of Illinois
call: **1-217-524-2606**

TTY: 1-800-358-5117

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Office for the Protection of Children and Youth (OPCY)

Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Prayer and Penance Program
Office of Assistance Ministry
Safe Environment Office

TO PROTECT AND HEAL



Prevention and Compliance

SAFE ENVIRONMENT OFFICE

Mission: To educate clergy, employees and volunteers in the Archdiocese of Chicago on how to prevent child sexual abuse, how to recognize sex offender behaviors and how to create safe environments for children in our parishes and schools.

Mission: To support parishes and schools in the Archdiocese of Chicago in creating and maintaining safe environments for all children, youth and vulnerable adults.

This office oversees the training and background checks for all archdiocesan clergy, employees and volunteers. It also disseminates the archdiocesan standards of behavior for individuals working with children and young people, provides safe environment training for children and adults, and trains parish staffs to monitor compliance with the *USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* as well as archdiocesan safe environment policies.

Safe Environment Office:

- Adult training through Virtus System – Protecting God’s Children for Adults and Keeping the Promise Alive
- Training programs for children and youth
- Illinois Mandated Reporter training
- Name-based background screening
- CANTS 689 Form
- Standards of Behavior
- Fingerprinting for school personnel
- On-site parish and school audits

Reporting Abuse

OFFICE FOR CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEW

Mission: To provide a compassionate and thorough process for receiving and investigating reports of child abuse against personnel of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

This office is available to all individuals who choose to report their abuse as children or who have the knowledge of the abuse of children in our church. This office also collaborates with a number of other archdiocesan offices to help investigate and process allegations received in a timely fashion.

Prayer and Penance

PRAYER AND PENANCE PROGRAM

Mission: Oversees the program of Prayer and Penance for priests who have been removed from public ministry due to allegations of sexual abuse of minors and who remain in the priesthood.

The Program oversees the risk management for participants of the Prayer and Penance Program, and monitors their compliance. The Program strives to protect the community and Church from further harm.

No archdiocesan priest with a substantiated case of sexual abuse of a minor is in public ministry.

Outreach and Healing

OFFICE OF ASSISTANCE MINISTRY

Mission: To provide pastoral care, support and resources to victim-survivors of clerical sexual abuse and their loved ones in their efforts to achieve psychological, emotional and spiritual healing.

This office provides referrals for counseling and spiritual direction. The Office for Assistance Ministry also provides support groups, educational groups and retreats.

This office strives to ensure that victim-survivors receive the help and acknowledgment they need throughout the healing process.

The goal is to support people through a caring way as they heal.

The Office for the Protection of Children and Youth is committed to protecting all of God’s children and promoting healing for victims of abuse.

Please contact us if we can help you in any way.

OPCY Contact Information

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Web: protect.archchicago.org

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