

# Frequently Asked Questions



## Am I liable for making a report that turns out to be wrong?

Ohio Revised Code 2151.421 provides that any reporter shall be **immune from any civil or criminal liability** due to participating in the making of reports in good faith. These immunity provisions have been tested in the Ohio Courts and have been enforced.

## Am I liable if I decide not to make a report?

Ohio Revised Code 2151.421 provides that a **failure to report**, when someone is required to do so by law, can result in a misdemeanor charge. **Failure to report** when required by diocesan policy can result in disciplinary action, up to and including removal from employment or service.

## How do I know if I have enough information to make a report?

Let the professionals decide. If you have a reasonable suspicion, direct knowledge, or the thought enters your mind that abuse or neglect is occurring, or has occurred, **make a report**. It is your moral, and possibly legal, obligation. No matter how uncomfortable it may feel, you could be the only voice that person has.

**Please speak up.**



# Victim Assistance



**330-718-1388**



**Catholic Diocese of Youngstown**  
**Attn: Victim Assistance Coordinator**  
**144 West Wood Street**  
**Youngstown, OH 44503**



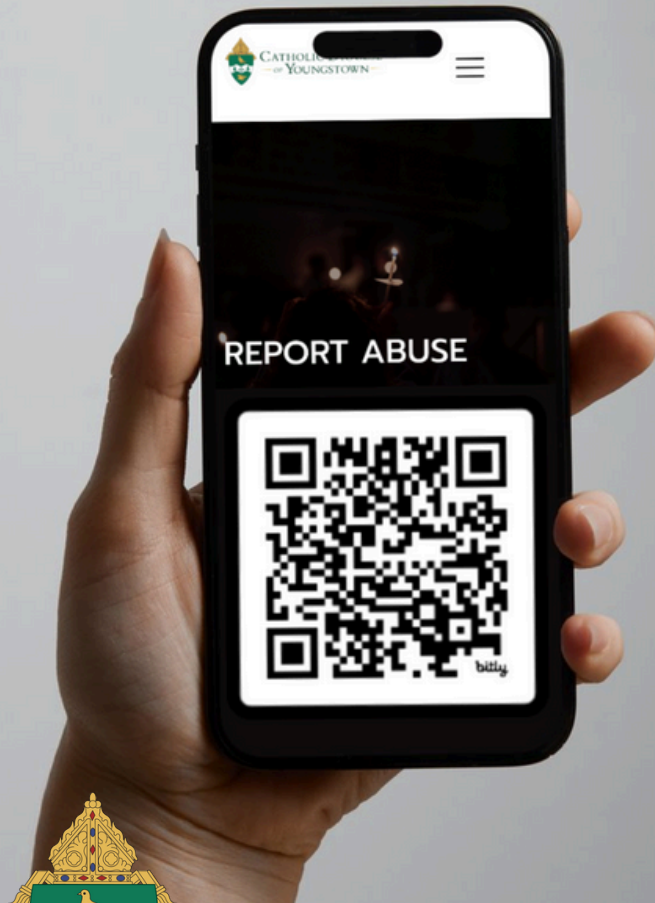
**doy.org/report-abuse/**  
**doy.org/safe-environment/**



CATHOLIC DIOCESE  
— OF YOUNGSTOWN —

Our Lord admonishes us to never harm a child (Matt. 18). The Church is committed to doing everything possible to protect the children, young people, and vulnerable adults that are entrusted to her care. All of us must work together to create a safe environment where **the love of Jesus reigns** in our thoughts, words, and actions.

Policies and Procedures from the  
**Safe Environment Policy**  
**for the Protection of Children,**  
**Young People, and Vulnerable Adults**



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# Reporting Abuse or Neglect



If a person's safety or life  
is in immediate danger  
**CALL 911**

## REPORT TO AUTHORITIES

### Report Child Abuse or Neglect

**Call 855-O-H-CHILD**  
(855-642-4453)

or your county children services board:

**Ashtabula** 440-998-1811

**Columbiana** 330-424-7781

**Mahoning** 330-941-8888

**Portage** 330-296-2273

**Stark** 330-455-5437

**Trumbull** 330-372-2010

### Report Elder/Vulnerable Adult Abuse or Neglect

**Call 855-OHIO-APS**  
(855-644-6277)

**After reporting, if the  
situation is urgent, you  
should also call the police.**

## REPORT TO DIOCESE

Call authorities first.  
If the suspected offender is a  
cleric, employee, or volunteer of  
the Diocese of Youngstown,  
contact:

### Victim Assistance Coordinator

**Diocesan Response Line:**  
**330-718-1388**

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If you see or hear about something  
suspicious, questionable, or  
inappropriate, contact:

### Director Office of Safe Environment

**330-744-8451 x293**

[dcolucy@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:dcolucy@youngstowndiocese.org)

## REQUIREMENT TO REPORT

Anyone who witnesses an act of  
child or vulnerable adult abuse or  
neglect, perpetrated by a priest,  
deacon, religious, seminarian,  
person in formation, employee,  
volunteer, or any other person, or  
suspects that such an act has  
occurred, or receives a report of  
such an act, **shall report the  
incident to the relevant authorities  
immediately.**

Additionally, the Ohio Revised Code  
2151.421 **requires** that certain  
individuals, acting in an official or  
professional capacity, report any  
known or reasonably suspected  
child/vulnerable adult abuse or  
neglect to the civil authorities.

Priests who learn of abuse or  
neglect through the **Seal of  
Confession** are exempt from this  
reporting requirement according to  
Canon 983.1 of the Code of Canon  
Law and according to civil law.