



Reporting Protocol for Parish & School Staff

Human trafficking is a crime and a grave offense against the dignity of the human person.

This reporting protocol provides guidance for Catholic parish or school staff on how to respond safely, ethically, and within the bounds of Church teaching and civil law.

1. Recognize the Signs

- Unexplained fear, anxiety, or submission
- Signs of physical abuse or restricted movement
- A minor with an older partner or unable to speak freely
- Multiple youth living with one adult who is not a parent
- Someone who appears coached or controlled

2. Immediate Safety First

- If someone is in immediate danger, **call 911**.
- Do not approach the suspected trafficker.
- Do not confront the suspected victim unless it is safe and discreet.

3. Report Through Proper Channels

- Contact your ****parish or diocesan safeguarding coordinator****.
- Inform your ****pastor or principal**** as soon as safely possible.
- Call the ****National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888****

4. Protect Confidentiality

Never share names, details, or images publicly. Maintain pastoral care and privacy for all parties involved. If you're unsure, consult your diocesan legal counsel or pastoral services office.

5. Spiritual and Pastoral Follow-Up

Offer prayer support, connection to trusted resources, and trauma-informed pastoral care. Collaborate with organizations like ****Our Lady's Haven**** to provide long-term support.

When In Doubt, Report

It is better to report a concern and be wrong than to remain silent and miss a chance to help someone in crisis. **Every person is made in the image of God and worthy of protection.**

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