

# How to Report an Allegation

*If you suspect abuse has occurred within a family:*

- Contact the Department of Social Services within the county you suspect the abuse took place.
- Contact the Diocese at 843-261-0430, to report status.

*If you suspect an abuse has occurred that involved diocesan personnel (priests, deacons, teachers, employees or volunteers) contact:*

- The police department, you suspect the abuse occurred, immediately.
- Call the Victim Assistance Coordinator at 843-856-0748 or 800-921-8122

**YOUR ROLE IS TO REPORT.**

**THERE IS TO BE NO INVESTIGATION BY YOU OR ANYONE ELSE AT THE PARISH/SCHOOL.**

The Victim Assistance Coordinator can assist individuals in presenting their allegations to the Department of Social Services, the police, and the Diocese of Charleston.

For assistance, contact our Victim Assistance Coordinator:

Louisa Storen, LISW, LMFT

843-856-0748 or 800-921-8122

PROMISE TO PROTECT



PLEDGE TO HEAL

BELIEVE IN THE POSSIBILITY OF HELP AND HEALING. THERE IS HOPE.

Your local Victim Assistance Coordinator is available to help you or anyone who has been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church. We will listen to your needs and support you. We will help you make a formal complaint and arrange a personal meeting with the bishop, or his delegate, if desired. We encourage you to come forward and speak out.

The Victim Assistance Coordinator in our diocese is:

**Louisa Storen, LISW, LMFT**

**843-856-0748**

**or**

**800-921-8122**



**Victim Assistance  
Coordinator**

**for the**

**Roman Catholic  
Diocese of Charleston**

**Promise to Protect  
Pledge to Heal**

by providing Compassion, Support, and Resources for those affected by sexual abuse by a Priest, Deacon, or lay person working with the Diocese of Charleston.

## Mission of the Victim Assistance Coordinator

The position of the VAC was established by the Diocese of Charleston specifically to provide timely assistance, special care, support, and resources to those who have been hurt by the sexually abusive behavior of a Priest, Deacon, or lay person working within the Diocese.

Professional resources available through the VAC include spiritual directors, specially trained counselors and psychologists. These services and assistance are provided in a professional, committed and compassionate manner. In all cases, respect for the privacy of those who seek assistance is honored.

### The Victim Assistance Coordinator provides services to:

- Individuals who have experienced sexual abuse as minors
- The families of those sexually abused by a Priest, Deacon, or lay person working within the Diocese
- Parish communities affected by an incident of sexual misconduct
- Pastoral staffs of those parishes affected by incidents of sexual misconduct

# Pledge to Heal

## *...individuals*

- Individual spiritual direction under the guidance of approved, trained spiritual directors.
- Individual counseling, on a time limited basis, which provides therapeutic support to complement other efforts toward healing and wholeness.
- Professional Resource Identification: assistance in one's search for other professional resources that one's individual circumstances require in their journey to wholeness.

## *...parishes and parish staffs*

- To help bring spiritual and emotional healing to the parish family, the Victim Assistance Minister offers assistance, consultation and support to parish pastoral staffs and provides parish intervention.
- Parish intervention teams composed of trained personnel, psychologists and other professionals are available to assist parish communities affected by an allegation or incident of abuse.



## Victim Assistance Coordinator



**Louisa Storen, LISW, LMFT**

“I provide assistance, special care, support and resources to those who have been hurt by the sexually abusive behavior of a priest, deacon or lay person working for the Diocese. Assistance is offered to victims, their families, schoolmates, parish members and the accused and their treatment is monitored on an on-going basis. I also maintain an on-going database of professional, licensed psychotherapists in the Diocese in order to refer victims for needed counseling.

It is also my responsibility to attend conferences and training sessions pertinent to the needs of victims of sexual abuse and stay abreast of the most current evidence based research. I serve as liaison to community agencies who specialize in treatment of victims including the Dee Norton Lowcountry Children's Center, the Crime Victims Research Project at MUSC, People Against Rape, and Darkness to Light. I also maintain a membership in ATSA.”