

The Diocese of Lexington stands ready to aid victim/survivors of sexual abuse/sexual misconduct by church personnel in service of the Diocese. The following definitions from Diocesan policy define sexual abuse/sexual misconduct.

Sexual Abuse—Sexual contact between a cleric, employee, or regular volunteer of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lexington and a minor. Sexual abuse refers to acts described in KRS 620.020 (37), part 4, as well as those described in the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

Sexual Exploitation—Sexual interaction between a church professional and an adult who is receiving care from that person.

Sexual Harassment—Continued unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature between individuals in a church-related setting in which at least one person is a cleric, and employee, or a regular volunteer of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lexington.

Sexual Misconduct—In this Decree means one of three related forms of misconduct: sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, or sexual abuse.

CHARTER FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Sexual Abuse as Described in the Charter

*Sexual abuse of a minor includes sexual molestation or sexual exploitation of a minor and other behavior by which an adult uses a minor as an object of sexual gratification. Sexual abuse has been defined by different civil authorities in various ways, and these norms do not adopt any particular definition provided in civil law. Rather, the transgressions in question relate to obligations arising from divine commands regarding human sexual interaction as conveyed to us by the sixth commandment of the Decalogue (CIC, c. 1395 §2; CCEO, c. 1453 §1). Thus, the norm to be considered in assessing an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor is whether conduct or interaction with a minor qualifies as an external, objectively grave violation of the sixth commandment (USCCB, Canonical Delicts Involving Sexual Misconduct and Dismissal from the Clerical State, 1995, p. 6). A canonical offense against the sixth commandment of the Decalogue (CIC, c. 1395 §2; CCEO, c. 1453 §1) need not be a complete act of intercourse. Not, to be objectively grave, does an act need to involve, force,

physical contact, or a discernible harmful outcome. Moreover, “imputability [moral responsibility] for a canonical offense is presumed upon external violation... unless it is otherwise apparent” (CIC, c. 1321 §3; CCEO, c. 1414 §2). Cf. CIC, cc. 1322-1327, and CCEO, cc. 1413, 1415, and 1416. If there is any doubt about whether a specific act fulfills this definition, the writings of recognized moral theologians should be consulted and the opinion of a recognized expert be obtained (Canonical Delicts, p. 6). Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the diocesan bishop/eparch, with the advice of a qualified review board, to determine the gravity of the alleged act.

KENTUCKY REVISED STATUTES (620.020. (37)

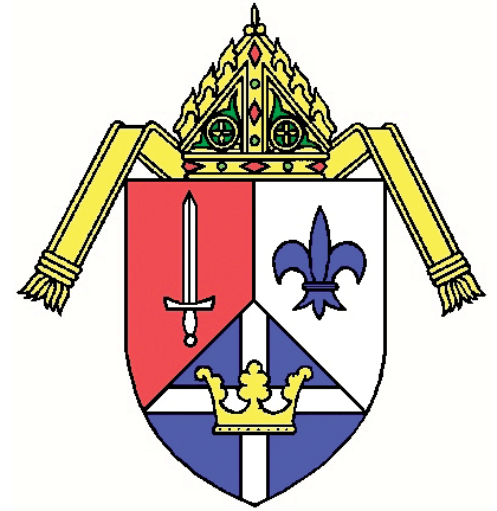
Definition of abuse and exploitation means emotional or physical harm or sexual abuse as defined below:

Emotional harm means harm to the mental or psychological capacity or emotional stability of a child as testified to by a qualified mental health professional; emotional injury means an injury to the mental or psychological capacity or emotional stability of a child as evidenced by a substantial and observable impairment in his or her ability to function within a normal range of performance and behavior with due regard to age, development, culture and environment; physical injury means substantial physical pain or any impairment of physical condition; sexual abuse includes, but is not limited to any contacts or interactions between a child and an adult in which the parent, guardian or other person having custodial control or supervision of the child or responsibility uses or allows, the sexual stimulation of the perpetrator or another person; sexual exploitation includes involvement in prostitution or acts of obscene or pornographic photographing or filming depicting a child.

If you are or have been the victim/survivor of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct by church personnel serving the Diocese of Lexington, contact:

**Nelda S. Jackson
Victim Advocate
1310 W. Main Street
Lexington, KY 40508-2040
(859)253-1993, ext. 214
njackson@cdlex.org**

All information will be treated with confidentiality.



**REPORTING
SEXUAL ABUSE
or
SEXUAL MISCONDUCT
by
CHURCH PERSONNEL
of
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF LEXINGTON**

**Complaint Form: Sexual Abuse or Sexual Misconduct
By Personnel of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lexington**

Information about Complainant:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone(s) _____

E-Mail _____

Information about the Sexual Abuse or Misconduct:

Date of abuse/misconduct _____

Name of victim _____

Age of victim at time of abuse (only for sexual abuse claim) _____

Name of abuser/one accused of misconduct _____

Description of abuse/misconduct (continue on separate sheet, as necessary)

Name of Complainant (please print)

Signature of Complainant

Date

Upon completion, this form should be sent to:
Nelda S. Jackson/Victim Advocate
Roman Catholic Diocese of Lexington
1310 W. Main Street
Lexington, KY 40508-2040

If you have any questions or concerns about how to complete this form to present an allegation please contact **Nelda S. Jackson** in writing at the above address, or at:

E-mail: njackson@cdlex.org
(859)253-1993, ext. 214

Go to the diocesan website at www.cdlex.org for policies. A printed copy of diocesan policy may be obtained by contacting the victim advocate above address, e-mail, and phone number.

Pursuant to policy, all complaints of sexual abuse involving clergy, religious, employees, or regular volunteers serving the Diocese of Lexington will be investigated immediately. For exact process, please refer to the diocesan website or contact the victim advocate for a printed version of diocesan policy.

All information received will be treated with confidentiality.
All victim/survivors are advised that they have the right to report the alleged abuse to the civil authorities. For information on contacting the civil authorities, contact the victim advocate.