

Key components of the Archdiocese of Baltimore's Child and Youth Protection policies:

### **Reporting of Allegations**

The Archdiocese of Baltimore strictly complies with Maryland laws requiring reporting suspected child abuse to civil authorities. Under Maryland law any person who has reason to believe a child has been subjected to abuse must report the suspected abuse to civil authorities, even if the potential victim is now over 18 years old and even in cases where the alleged perpetrator is deceased. If someone associated with the Church, including clergy, employees, or volunteers in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, is suspected of abuse, then the suspected abuse must also be reported to the Archdiocese's Office of Child and Youth Protection (OCYP) at 410-547-5348 or the Victims Assistance Hotline at 1-866-417-7469.

### **Service Ineligibility of an Offender (including Registered Sex Offenders) and/or Those Who Have Been Charged with a Related Offense**

Anyone credibly accused of child abuse will be excluded from ministry, employment, and volunteer service in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Therefore, registered sex offenders are not allowed to serve as volunteers in any capacity in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. We do not screen the background of all parents.

If it is learned that a registered sex offender's child attends an Archdiocesan school or parish, then restrictions are placed on the parent regarding their participation in school and parish activities. The parent may not attend any school event and the parent's access to a school is limited to times when children are not present. A registered sex offender may participate in liturgical celebrations in the Archdiocese. However, his/her presence on Archdiocesan property other than attending a liturgical celebration will be considered trespassing. Similarly, restrictions are placed on a parent who has been charged with a related offense.

### **Screening of Applicants**

The Archdiocese of Baltimore is committed to healthy ministry, and seeks to engage competent, qualified people. To protect children and youth, Church personnel are screened for their fitness to work with minors. This process includes mandatory completion of criminal background checks for all clergy, employees, and for all volunteers who have substantial contact with children.

### **Training and Education**

The Archdiocese of Baltimore's safe environment training program, *VIRTUS: Protecting God's Children* educates Church personnel on preventing, recognizing, and reporting child sexual abuse. All clergy, employees, and all volunteers who have substantial contact with children are required to receive this safe environment training. Volunteers under the age of 18 receive age appropriate safe environment training, *Worthy of the Call*. Family Life Catechesis is mandated for children in our schools and parish religious education programs. Resources are made available to parents as well.

### **Outreach to Victims**

The Archdiocese of Baltimore reaches out to those who have been harmed by Church personnel. The Archdiocese recognizes the importance of not only offering support to those who are abuse survivors, but to their family members as well. The Office of Child and Youth Protection offers survivors counseling and pastoral services with a therapist of their choosing.