



(B)
Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn
Policy to Address Claims of Sexual Abuse of Minors
by Subdeacons, Seminarians, Religious, Eparchial
Employees or Regular Volunteers
Reviewed and Revised
March 14, 2022

The *Eparchial norms regarding sexual abuse of minors by Priests or Deacons*, with the exception of those that deal specifically with priests or deacons according to canon law, are also to be applied to subdeacons, seminarians, religious, Eparchial employees and regular volunteers of the Eparchy. In addition, there are these following norms.

Reporting:

In all cases of alleged or suspected or known child abuse committed by a subdeacon, seminarian, religious, Eparchial employee or volunteer of the Eparchy, the Eparchy will comply with all applicable civil laws in respect to reporting the allegations and will cooperate with civil authorities in the investigation.

Investigation:

Besides any actions taken by the civil authorities, the Eparchy will conduct its own investigation of the alleged abuse.

Based on the results of the civil disposition, the Eparchy's own investigation, and the advice of the Review Board, the Eparchial Bishop will determine the continued working relationship of the accused with the Eparchy.

During the investigation, the accused will be relieved from his or her responsibilities, and removed from any contact with minors.

Screening:

The background of all Eparchial and parish personnel who have unsupervised contact with minors will be evaluated. Administrators must take due precautions to assure that only persons who are psychologically and temperamentally suited are chosen to work with children.

No applicant with a history of a felony or misdemeanor sex offense conviction will be considered for placement or hire.

Applicants for employment or to volunteer in a position involving contact with children in parishes and institutions of the Eparchy must provide the hiring agent personal information adequate to assess their suitability for contact with minors. Applicants must undergo a background check, complete a program of safety training and review and accept all Eparchial policies on Child and Youth Protection.

Pastors will require that any person or group, hired through a third party contract, and who will have responsibility for the care, custody or control of a child, must provide proof of a criminal background check of those persons to the pastor/administrator of the parish.

Each parish or institution of the Eparchy must work closely with the Eparchial Office of Child and Youth Protection's Coordinator to ensure they are in compliance with all Eparchial policies and programs. All information gathered will be retained in a confidential file in the Eparchial Office of Child and Youth Protection.

Prevention:

The Eparchy of Saint Maron has promulgated a *Code of Ethics and Integrity in Ministry* to be adhered to by all persons in positions of trust in the Eparchy.

All Eparchial programs designed to certify clerics, religious, Eparchial employees, and volunteers who serve children on a regular basis will include segments that address child sexual abuse. The training curriculum will include information concerning: signs and symptoms, dynamics of child abuse, impact of child abuse, intervention strategies, reporting requirements and community resources.

All subdeacons, seminarians, religious, Eparchial employees and regular volunteers must participate and be certified in a training program approved by the Eparchy prior to working with children and young people.

_____ Name	_____ Signature	_____ Date
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