

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY
ANGLO-CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF THE SOUTHWEST, INC.

1. This policy applies to all members of the Anglo-Catholic Archdiocese of the Southwest, Inc. (hereafter referred to as “the Archdiocese”), including members of Parishes that are defined as members of the Archdiocese. This policy statement must be signed by all members of the clergy, all clergy, and those in Minor Orders, (defined as all Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Sub-Deacons, Acolytes, Exorcists, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Lay Chaplains, as well as those in Religious Orders, Postulants, and Seminarians), and all adults working in any capacity, for pay or volunteer, involving minors (defined as persons under the age of 18 years). For clergy (Bishops, Priests, and Deacons), a signed and witnessed copy of this form must be submitted to the Archdiocese. For all others, a signed and witnessed copy must be maintained at their Parish of record.
2. All members of the clergy, all clergy, and those in Minor Orders, (defined as all Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Sub-Deacons, Acolytes, Exorcists, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Lay Chaplains, as well as those in Religious Orders, Postulants, and Seminarians), and all adults working in any capacity, for pay or volunteer, involving minors (defined as persons under the age of 18 years) must satisfactorily complete child protection training at least once. These persons may be required by their Parish or the Archdiocese to undergo additional training or periodic training. Training programs that satisfy this requirement are child protection training offered by the Boy Scouts of America or the Virtus training program offered by the Roman Catholic Church in the USA.
3. Adults working with children must not work in a one-on-one manner and are required to have at least one other adult present. This necessarily cannot apply directly to the Sacrament of Confession, given the secrecy involved in that sacrament. However, priests hearing confession of minors are cautioned against using confession rooms, but rather hearing confessions in traditional, behind-the-screen confessions with other adults present outside the confessional, or by using church pews, with others present at an appropriate distance.
4. The Archdiocese and its member Parishes are not law enforcement agencies. Any accusations by children or adults acting on behalf of one or more children of sexual misconduct against a minor by one or more adults who are members of the Archdiocese or members of a Parish that is a member of the Archdiocese must be made to proper law enforcement officials, and members of the Archdiocese or a Parish hearing such accusations must advise the accuser to make their accusations to the proper authorities. They must further request that the Archdiocese and Parish be made aware of relevant legal proceedings, and must further inform proper Church authority to begin preparation for suspension and other internal processes as necessary for the protection of all involved. Additional actions may be required by local law, and variations in actions required in this paragraph may only be made if required by local law. It is the responsibility of the Parish and the undersigned to know and understand the local laws regarding their work with children.

Initial and Date: _____

5. Only when a person has been formally charged by competent legal authority with a sexual crime against a child will said person be placed on suspension from, at a minimum, work involving children. If this person is a priest, then “work involving children” does not apply to public liturgy at which children may be present, except that altar servers in this case may not be under the age of 18 years.
6. Only when a person has been convicted of a crime against a child may that person be recommended for ecclesiastical discipline in accordance with the Metropolitan Canons. Persons convicted of a sexual crime against a child may not engage in work in this Archdiocese or its member Parishes involving one or more children and may be further suspended from all clerical duties pending potential ecclesiastical discipline in accordance with the Metropolitan Canons. This suspension may be with or without pay, in the event of a person receiving financial compensation for work performed. Under no circumstances will persons convicted of sexual crimes against a minor be permitted to work with children under the Archdiocese or any Parish that is a member of the Archdiocese, and furthermore may not serve in a parochial capacity. The normal recommendation to be made to the Metropolitan Tribunal for a clergyman so convicted is suspension of clerical faculties, temporarily or permanently, and removal from official duties; and for those in Minor Orders and the Laity to be removed from all official duties. Due process under Metropolitan Canon Law will be maintained.
7. That which applies to criminal charges mentioned in this policy also applies to civil suits for sexual misconduct.
8. It is the policy of the Archdiocese to cooperate with competent legal authorities that are carrying out official investigation. Parishes that are members of the Archdiocese are expected to cooperate similarly as well. This does not apply to the Seal of Confession.
9. This policy is subject to change as necessary at any time.
10. This policy does not constitute legal advice.

Signed: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

Parish Affiliation (if any): _____

Date: _____

WITNESS:

Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

Address: _____ Date: _____
