

From:

To:



Diocesan e-Newsletter

April, 2010 - Child Abuse Protection Month

[What we have done](#)



*Bishop Blaire greeting a parishioner.*

My Dear Catholic People,

The very sad issue of clergy sexual abuse has once again captured the headlines. With these new stories in mind, I wish to reassure you that I have made the safety of our children one of my highest priorities. The different sections below outline specific steps we have taken to make this priority a reality in the Diocese of Stockton.

The United States Catholic Bishops adopted "The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" in 2002. Our Diocese has fully implemented the Charter and yearly audits have found us to be in compliance.

Articles below list the very specific safety procedures we have put in place. There are also many resources listed as well, either on our own website or through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

The Church must continue to reform herself so that this tragedy will never happen again.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Stephen E. Blaire  
Roman Catholic Bishop of Stockton

### **April is Child Abuse Protection Month**

April is national Child Abuse Prevention Month. As part of our effort to keep you informed about child abuse and neglect and protecting our children, there will be a short insert in each week's bulletin during the month of April. For information on

The USCCB lists many

ways for each of us to become more aware of the problem of child abuse. Articles, audio segments and helpful hints are all available:

[www.usccb.org/ocyp/april\\_cap\\_month\\_2010.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/ocyp/april_cap_month_2010.shtml)

Our Diocesan website has many important documents and resources:

[www.stocktondiocese.org/english/children/commAware.html](http://www.stocktondiocese.org/english/children/commAware.html)

A pdf copy of the U.S. Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People can be downloaded from:

[www.usccb.org/ocyp/charter.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/ocyp/charter.pdf)

If you would prefer ordering a printed copy of "Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal", it is available here:

[www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=673](http://www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=673)

60 second audio spot featuring an interview of Bishop Blase Cupich, chair of USCCB Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People:

[www.usccb.org/ocyp/audio-psa.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/ocyp/audio-psa.shtml)

how you can become more informed and involved in keeping our children safe, please call:

**Linda Dillen**  
Manager and Diocesan Training Coordinator  
Safe Environment  
Diocese of Stockton  
(209) 466-0636

## Help Reduce Statistics

Nationally, more than 2 million reports of abuse or neglect of minors in society and families are made each year. Only a small percentage of child abuse is ever reported. Learn how to spot suspected abuse or neglect, and how to report it to the proper authorities. For more information, please contact Linda Dillen, Manager & Diocesan Safe Environment Training Coordinator, Diocese of Stockton, (209) 466-0636.

[return to top](#)

## What we have done in the Diocese of Stockton

We require a certain protocol be followed to ensure the safety of our children.

Any volunteer or employee who works with or around our children must be fully trained.

No one is allowed to work with children or youth in our schools, parishes, religious education programs, athletic programs, etc. until the person has fulfilled the following requirements:

### **1) Fingerprinting and Background Checks.**

Employees (including clergy) must be cleared through the FBI and DOJ (Dept. of Justice), including an extensive background check.

Volunteers must be cleared through the DOJ which includes an extensive background check.

### **2) An Online Training Course on Child Abuse**

Some topics include recognizing abuse, reporting requirements, etc and all volunteers are required to complete the course. The program used in the Diocese of Stockton is entitled "Shield the Vulnerable." Upon completion, employees and volunteers must present a certificate of completion to be filed at the parish/school.

In addition to following the above procedures, the Diocese also trains the children and youth within the diocese.

All parochial school children (K-8) and all religious education children receive yearly training in the classroom. This consists of age appropriate lessons from the Kids and Company curriculum which incorporates religious teachings.

High school students are required to view the Boy Scouts of America video entitled Youth Protection: Personal Safety Awareness each year.

Linda Dillen, Manager & Diocesan Safe Environment Training Coordinator, has conducted several informational classes on "Recognizing Signs of Abuse and Reporting" through the School of Ministry.

[return to top](#)

San Joaquin County CPS  
Agency - (209) 468-1330

Stanislaus County CPS  
Agency - (209) 558-3665

Tuolumne County CPS  
Agency - (209) 533-5717

Mono County CPS  
Agency - (209) 932-7755

Calaveras County CPS  
Agency - (209) 754-6452



**Resources:**

[www.stocktondiocese.org/english/children/resources.html](http://www.stocktondiocese.org/english/children/resources.html)

**There are helpful articles available:**

"How to React to Reports of Sexual Abuse"

"What Parents Need to Know to Keep Children Safe"

"Child Sexual Abuse: An Old Problem Just Discovered"

[www.usccb.org/ocyp/articles.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/ocyp/articles.shtml)



"Protecting Youth on the Internet"

## To Whom Must You Report?

In accordance with the California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law, child abuse should be reported immediately (or as soon as practically possible) by telephone...to any police department or sheriff's department (not including a school district police or security department), county probation department, if designated by the county to receive mandated reports, or county welfare department ." (P.C.11165.9).

A written report should be sent within 36 hours on a Department of Justice form (SS 8572), which may be requested from your local police or sheriff's department, county probation department, or county welfare department. Forms are also available from your local Child Protective Services Agency.

[return to top](#)

## Sections on our Diocesan website with more information:

**Community Awareness:**

[www.stocktondiocese.org/english/children/commAware.html](http://www.stocktondiocese.org/english/children/commAware.html)

**Documents:**

[www.stocktondiocese.org/english/children/documents.html](http://www.stocktondiocese.org/english/children/documents.html)

**How to report Claims:**

[www.stocktondiocese.org/english/children/reportComplaints.html](http://www.stocktondiocese.org/english/children/reportComplaints.html)

**Office of Training Coordinator:**

[www.stocktondiocese.org/english/children/office.html](http://www.stocktondiocese.org/english/children/office.html)

**Diocesan Policy:**

[www.stocktondiocese.org/english/children/policy.html](http://www.stocktondiocese.org/english/children/policy.html)

[return to top](#)

## How To Report Complaints or Allegations of Sexual Abuse In the Diocese Of Stockton

The Diocese of Stockton treats all complaints of sexual abuse seriously and deals with such allegations in a confidential, prompt, and thorough manner with compassion and consideration for all those involved.

To make a complaint of sexual abuse against anyone acting in the name of the Catholic Church, you may do so in writing or by telephone. Whether the abuse was recent or occurred many years in the past, contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator at (209) 466-0636, extension 604, or in writing to 1105 North Lincoln Street, Stockton, California, 95203, marked "confidential" and directed to the attention of the Victim Assistance Coordinator.

[return to top](#)

## Internet Safety for Kids

The Internet has become the new schoolyard for child molesters seeking girls or boys to victimize. Internet "chat rooms" provide a teenager with an opportunity to engage in a "live" conversation with friends from school or church, or with other teenagers from around the world.

A chat room is similar to an old-style telephone party line, except that the teens are typing. Law enforcement has found that child molesters use chat rooms to gain easy and safe access to teens. Because of the seemingly caring and seductive

[www.usccb.org/ocyp/articles.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/ocyp/articles.shtml)

talent of child molesters, teenagers should be warned that when they are in a chat room, they should never provide anyone with private information, personal information, and especially their specific physical location.

[return to top](#)

**Resources:**

[www.stocktondiocese.org/english/children/resources.html](http://www.stocktondiocese.org/english/children/resources.html)

**Preventing Child Abuse is Everyone's Responsibility**

It is every adult's moral responsibility to protect possible victims by reporting the suspected abuse or neglect to the responsible authorities. Sexual abuse of minors is a pervasive societal problem, and only concerted and sustained efforts by all adults in every segment of society can help to protect children and youth.

For information on how to report suspected abuse, contact your local parish safe environment coordinator or Linda Dillen, Manager & Diocesan Safe Environment Training Coordinator, Diocese of Stockton, (209 466-0636).

[return to top](#)

This message was sent from Terry Davis to webmaster@stocktondiocese.org. It was sent from: Terry Davis, 1105 North Lincoln Street, Stockton, CA 95203. You can modify/update your subscription via the link below.



 [Manage your subscription](#)

