

MOUNT ANGEL ABBEY REVIEW BOARD

The primary purpose of the Mount Angel Abbey Review Board is to assist the Abbot of Mount Angel Abbey in maintaining a climate of safety and respect for all children and young people who participate in Abbey-sponsored programs and ministries, or who visit the Abbey. The Board's work includes reviewing pertinent policies and programs, advising on educational requirements, helping to address complaints of child abuse on the part of Abbey personnel, and recommending ways to foster healing and reconciliation where needed.

When a complaint of child abuse is made through Mount Angel Abbey's Office of Child Protection, the Coordinator explains the procedure and facilitates the process to the Review Board.

MEETING WITH THE BOARD

- A complainant may request to meet with the Review Board
- The complainant is encouraged to bring a friend or confidante along for support. Mount Angel Abbey will also offer an advocate for healing and reconciliation to assist the complainant in these proceedings.
- Sufficient time will be given to tell your story to the Board. The meeting is not a forum for discovery nor is it a legal forum.
- Board members may seek clarification about what was said, but will not engage in discovery.
- No written minutes or tape recordings will be made of the meeting either by the Board or the one bringing forth a complaint.

FOLLOW-UP

The Review Board will carefully consider the complaint and recommend action to the Abbot. The highest priority of the Board will be to help support reconciliation and healing for victims of abuse as well as the accused and all involved.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

For further information about the Mount Angel Abbey Policy on Child Abuse, visit our website at:
www.MountAngelAbbey.org

OFFICE OF CHILD PROTECTION

503-845-3515

E-mail: OCP@mountangelabbey.org
Mount Angel Abbey
One Abbey Drive
St. Benedict, Oregon 97373

RESOURCE INFORMATION

CHARTER FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN
www.usccb.org/ocyp/charter.shtml

ARCHDIOCESE OF PORTLAND IN OREGON
www.archdpx.org

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
www.oregon.gov/DHS/children/abuse

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING:
MARION COUNTY: 800-854-3508
MULTNOMAH COUNTY: 800-509-5439



MOUNT ANGEL ABBEY

Our Response to Child Abuse

A TIME FOR HEALING & RECONCILIATION

OUR CALL AS CHRISTIANS

Child abuse is contrary to the Gospel and the values of love and concern that Jesus calls us to have for one another. It opposes all that the Catholic Church teaches and believes about respect for human dignity and justice. It is wrong and never to be tolerated.

The monks of Mount Angel Abbey are appalled by and condemn any actions which have resulted in harm to young people as a result of child abuse. We pledge our care and concern for all victims of abuse and we are committed to bringing the healing ministry of our Church to those we serve, to dialogue and pray with all who have suffered, and to foster opportunities for reconciliation.

It is the policy of Mount Angel Abbey that monks, employees, volunteers and seminarians must comply with all state and local laws regarding incidents of actual or suspected child abuse.

The Abbey fully subscribes to the June 2002 American Bishops' *Charter and Norms for the Protection of Children and Young People*.

OUR CALL TO ACT

The term "child abuse" may refer to the physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse or exploitation, mental injury, or threat of harm to a minor. Child abuse of any kind is a violation of state law. Some Church personnel (e.g., school personnel and clergy) are mandatory reporters under Oregon law and must report suspected child abuse to civil authorities.

HEALING AND RECONCILIATION

Mount Angel Abbey has established the Office of Child Protection (OCP) to promote the Church's teaching regarding the dignity of children, and it seeks to protect minors from any harmful behavior on the part of Abbey personnel. The OCP also helps to provide a safe and effective avenue for individuals who wish to make a complaint of current or past child abuse against personnel of Mount Angel Abbey.

OBLIGATION TO REPORT

Anyone who has reasonable cause to believe that child abuse involving Abbey personnel or seminarians is a present concern is required to report the suspected abuse directly to civil authorities. The Office of Child Protection is available to anyone who seeks advice about questions related to the reporting of abuse.

Anyone who would like to report past abuse, even if the abuse is past the statute of limitations for criminal offenses, is encouraged to contact the OCP.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

By contacting the OCP to report past abuse by Abbey personnel, you set in motion a process of investigation. Below is a brief description of what you can expect will happen:

- The OCP Coordinator will take your information. *You will not be asked to give a detailed description of the alleged abuse at this time.*
- After speaking with you, the Coordinator will inform the Abbot, or, in the case of a seminarian, the Abbot and the President-Rector.
- If the allegations are subject to reporting under Oregon law, and you have not done so, the Abbey will file a report with civil authorities and cooperate fully with them in their investigation of the charges.
- The accused individual will be informed of the allegations by the Abbot, or his designee, and will be given the opportunity to respond.
- The accused cleric, employee or volunteer will be placed on administrative leave pending a preliminary investigation. In cases where a priest-monk is serving at a parish, the Abbey, in collaboration with the (Arch)diocese, will take appropriate action.
- On behalf of the Abbot, the Coordinator may offer you assistance, such as an advocate for healing and reconciliation, pastoral/spiritual counseling, and/or psychological counseling, as appropriate.
- You may request to meet with the Abbot and/or the Abbey's Review Board.
- The Coordinator will stay in contact with you regarding the status of your report. You will be kept informed of the outcome of the preliminary investigation.
- If the allegations are substantiated or found credible:
 1. A report will be made to civil authorities, if it has not already been made.
 2. A cleric of Mount Angel Abbey will be subject to the norms of canon law.
 3. A non-cleric will be terminated from employment.
 4. A seminarian will be dismissed from the seminary.
- If the allegations are not substantiated, everything possible will be done to maintain or restore the good name and reputation of the accused.

The safety of the community and the rights of all parties involved – including the rights and reputation of the accused – will be considered in any action taken.