

POLICIES OF THE JESUITS WEST PROVINCE

PROTECTING MINORS

The Jesuits and employees of the Jesuits West Province are committed to protecting and promoting the well-being of all individuals. The Province is accredited by Praesidium, Inc., an organization providing consultation, risk management assessment, policy development, and training materials for use in preventing sexual misconduct and responding to allegations of sexual misconduct. The Province remains accredited through regular reviews by Praesidium's auditors.

BEFORE A JESUIT IS ACCEPTED

We take great care screening and assessing applicants to the Jesuits. Before a candidate is accepted as a novice, he undergoes in-depth screening, including psychosexual and social media screening, and an extensive criminal background check.

We work hard to ensure that our formation program fosters healthy development in the spiritual life of the Jesuit as well as his psychosexual health and well-being. Jesuits at every stage of their ministry and formation receive regular safe-environment training to promote ethical conduct in ministry and awareness and sensitivity of professional boundaries.

REPORTING OF CLAIMS

- When a claim is made against a Jesuit, the Province immediately reports it – verbally and in writing – to law enforcement if it involves the abuse of a minor. The Province fully cooperates throughout the investigation.
- Upon receipt of an allegation involving childhood sexual misconduct, the accused Jesuit is suspended from ministry pending the outcome of the investigation.
- The Province offers pastoral and therapeutic services to the victim.

INTERNAL INVESTIGATION

- If law enforcement decides to pursue a criminal investigation, the Province initiates its own investigation only after the one conducted by law enforcement concludes. The Province initiates its own internal investigation irrespective of whether a criminal investigation is initiated.
- The results of the Province's internal investigation are presented to an independent review board comprised of lay professionals from the fields of psychology, law enforcement and human resources. The lay review board helps determine if a claim is credible and makes its recommendation to the Provincial of Jesuits West, Fr. Scott Santarosa, SJ.
- No Jesuit who has an established allegation of sexually abusing a minor or vulnerable adult is allowed to remain in public ministry.

HOW TO REPORT A CLAIM

Individuals who come forward with complaints about the behavior of a Jesuit are dealt with compassionately and respectfully, and every effort is made to foster healing.

If you or anyone you know has felt victimized by a Jesuit at any time, please contact Mary Pat Panighetti, advocacy coordinator for Jesuits West, at **408-893-8398** or **mppanighetti@jesuits.org**.

We also urge you to contact the appropriate law enforcement and child-protective service agency if you believe any incident of abuse has occurred.