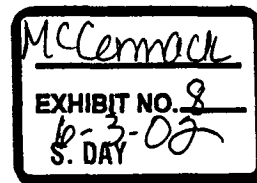




Communications

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS



The Five Principles to Follow in Dealing with Accusations of Sexual Abuse

*U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
June 1992*

1. Respond promptly to all allegations of abuse where there is reasonable belief that abuse has occurred.
2. If such an allegation is supported by sufficient evidence, relieve the alleged offender promptly of his ministerial duties and refer him for appropriate medical evaluation and intervention.
3. Comply with the obligations of civil law as regards reporting of the incident and cooperating with the investigation.
4. Reach out to the victims and their families and communicate sincere commitment to their spiritual and emotional well-being.
5. Within the confines of respect for privacy of the individuals involved, deal as openly as possible with the members of the community.

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