

III. Assistance

III.1 Assistance to Those Affected by Child Abuse

If, in spite of efforts to prevent child abuse, a child is abused by an employee, volunteer, priest, deacon or religious providing services for a school, parish or agency of the Archdiocese, the victim and his or her family should be attended to with compassion by the pastor, principal, agency director or other appropriate person. This will include being assisted in obtaining counseling and medical care as may be needed. Confidentiality regarding victims of child abuse will be maintained consistent with legal requirements.

III.2 Perpetrators of Child Abuse

If, after investigating an incident of alleged child abuse in accordance of these Guidelines, it is established that abuse has occurred or that it is probable that abuse has occurred, steps will be taken to remove the perpetrator, or alleged perpetrator, from any position which has contact with children. Other appropriate disciplinary steps will be considered and taken as required by the circumstances. Appropriate consideration should also be given to the care for and the rehabilitation of the perpetrator, which could include advising the person to seek counseling or therapy.