

As a victim you have rights:

As shepherd of the Diocese of Tyler, Bishop Strickland expresses his deep sadness that you must go through the process of reporting inappropriate conduct or abuse by a priest, deacon, religious, or a lay person working for the Church or helping the Church as a volunteer.

The Church is committed to hearing your complaint and taking it seriously. We would like to offer you pastoral care to help you and your family with your spiritual needs during this time. We also are willing to provide appropriate professional care, such as counseling.

Please know that Bishop Strickland is willing to meet with you.

The Church encourages you to report any suspected crime to the police. The Church will fully cooperate with the police as they follow up on the report.

If you have questions, please contact:

Rev. Gavin N. Vaverek, JCL  
Promoter of Justice  
[promoter@dioceseoftyler.org](mailto:promoter@dioceseoftyler.org)  
(903) 571-7069

Provided by the Diocese of Tyler

As an accused, you have rights:

When a concern has been raised to the Diocese of Tyler, the Bishop wants you to know that he presumes you are innocent, but the responsible course of action is to investigate and clarify the reality of the situation.

In many cases, the matter can be quickly resolved. If the police are involved, or likely to become involved, the Diocese will refrain from internal investigation and will cooperate with civil officials. The Diocese encourages you to fully cooperate as well - this is the best method of resolving any misunderstandings.

As an accused, you have a right to secure both civil and canonical counsel.

For your protection, as well as for that of possible victims, you will be directed to avoid contact directly or indirectly with any parties involved. Your discussing the matter with others will possibly compromise the investigation.

During the time you are on leave, it is encouraged you speak with a spiritual director for your spiritual wellbeing. If you feel a need for counseling or other support, please notify the Bishop, Vicar General, or Promoter of Justice.

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