

Then what happens?

The bishop himself, or a designee – most likely the DEC – begins doing careful inquiries into what has happened.

In further treatment of the case, the bishop collaborates with the DEC. The council is comprised of a psychologist/psychiatrist, one cleric, and one lawyer, and it includes both women and men. Oslo and Trondheim have a joint DEC. Tromsø has its own. The DEC, if needs be, can recruit external help.

Further processing will vary according to the nature of each case. Information about this can be found in English in the text *Handling cases of suspected sexual abuse*, available at http://www.katolsk.no/organisasjon/okb/regler/bp/saksbehandling-ved-mistanke-om_2020-eng_med-omslag.pdf/view, and directly through the webpages for Oslo, Trondheim and Tromsø. Oslo and Trondheim have joint rules dated 20 February 2020, and Tromsø has rules dated 19 March 2021.



Tromsø Prelature
Storgata 94, postboks 132
9252 Tromsø
Telephone: 77 68 56 04
nn@katolsk.no



The Catholic
Diocese of Oslo
Akersveien 5
0177 Oslo
Tel.: 23 21 95 00
okb@katolsk.no



Trondheim Prelature
Sverresgate 1
7012 Trondheim
Tel.: 73 52 77 05
mn@katolsk.no

www.katolsk.no



Sexual ABUSE

What should you do when you suspect that someone who works for the Church has committed sexual abuse?

When someone contacts you:

When a person who works for the Church has committed sexual misconduct or abuse, or when there is a suspicion of such, whoever learns of it must report it. Pope Francis, in his letter regarding the processing of cases of abuse, has said it is a moral obligation to make such a report. It is a matter of the Church's credibility; the duty which the pope emphasizes must therefore take precedence over other considerations. Even in cases where there is uncertainty, they must be reported. It is the responsibility of those who assess the case to form a standpoint regarding uncertainty and doubt.

The victim or someone who knows about the abuse may not want to report it to the police, a priest or a bishop. All the Catholic dioceses/prelatures have therefore, each on their own, appointed two people, a man and a woman, who can be contacted. You can find their names and contact information in this brochure.

Everyone who learns of a confirmed or alleged case of abuse can talk with one of the contact persons. They are there to listen, and they are bound by professional secrecy, except for passing the information on to the bishop and the council which the bishop has appointed for such matters (the Diocesan Ethics Council, hereafter DEC).

The persons responsible for processing such cases in the Church shall, as much as possible, protect and attend to the needs of the persons involved, especially the one who has been violated. The person who has reported abuse or possible abuse must not be afraid of incurring negative consequences for himself/herself, and he/she cannot be bound to professional secrecy.

Contact persons

The Catholic Diocese of Oslo has two contact persons for such cases:



P. Erik Ruud

Telephone: 63 81 93 76 / 47 97 58 92
Erik.Ruud@katolsk.no
Kroken 15, 1466 Strømmen



Jorån Heggveit

Telephone: 980 63 915
Joran.Heggveit@katolsk.no
Sorgenfrigata 3, 0367 Oslo

Trondheim Prelature has two contact persons for such cases:



Lena Tande

Telephone: 72 55 38 35 / 909 78 698
Lena.Tande@katolsk.no
Sverresdalsveien 16, 7020 Trondheim



Patrick Kermit

Telephone: 980 18 017
Patrick.Kermit@katolsk.no
Dalhaugveien 19, 7020 Trondheim

Tromsø Prelature has two contact persons for such cases:



Elisabeth Grenness

Telephone: 951 44 544
egrenness@hotmail.com
Balsfordgata 35, 9007 Tromsø



Heinrich August Backmann

Telephone: 970 90 993
hbackmann@icloud.com
Skeiddalen 24, 8070 Bodø

The contact persons are there to listen and are responsible for passing the information on to those who will deal further with the case. Anyone who becomes aware of a case of sexual abuse can contact one of the contact persons listed in this brochure, and if a priest learns of such a case, he *must* relay the information to one of the contact persons. The contact persons will then inform the bishop and the DEC of the Catholic Diocese of Oslo.