

# **OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE**

(to those sexually abused as minors)

## **To Promote Healing and Reconciliation**

The first obligation of our Church with regard to the victim/survivor is healing and reconciliation. It is in this context that we offer professional counseling services for the victim/survivor and offer pastoral care to the family as determined by the family. The diocese will assist with the cost of professional counseling initially; the continuance of the assistance will be based on progress reports provided by the professional counselor. A release-of-information will need to be provided by the victim/survivor to the counselor for the purpose of the counselor offering the diocese a minimally adequate evaluation of treatment effectiveness and estimated duration. The evaluation will be shared with the victim/survivor.

You may choose from this list of professional counselors or you may select your own counselor, subject to the approval by the diocese.

<b>G.E. Groves, MD</b>	<b>409/832-4900</b>
<b>Robert Meier, Ph.D.</b>	<b>409/866-0910</b>
<b>Donna Rizzotto, LPC</b>	<b>409/347-1963</b>
<b>Catholic Charities Counseling Services</b>	<b>409/924-4434 or 409/724-0281</b>
<b>Samaritan Counseling Center</b>	<b>409/527-4688</b>

***Victim Assistance Coordinator:***

**Becky Richard, M.S., L.P.C.**

**2780 Eastex Frwy.**

**Beaumont, TX 77703**

**[brichard@catholiccharitiesbmt.org](mailto:brichard@catholiccharitiesbmt.org)**

**Diocese of Beaumont**

**Ph. 409/924-4433**

(Rev. 8 / 2015)

# Protocol for the Victim Assistance Coordinator

## Introductory Notes:

**A.** This protocol assumes the bishop or the vicar general has been contacted regarding an allegation of sexual abuse against a minor or an adult. Should the Assistance Coordinator be the first diocesan personnel to be contacted, the Assistance Coordinator will immediately inform the bishop or the vicar general, the Child Protective Services, and then proceed as described below.

**B.** The term “victim” as used in this document always implies the presence/collaboration of a parent/guardian in the case of a minor; as well, it always denotes an “alleged” victim until otherwise documented by the competent authorities.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Provisions:

1. Although the bishop may have contacted the victim, the Assistance Coordinator will contact the victim immediately and personally, requesting a meeting with the victim.
2. The purpose of the meeting is:
  - A. To initiate pastoral healing for the victim by a person who represents the diocese;
  - B. To offer whatever immediate assistance may be required and which the diocese is capable of providing;
  - C. To offer professional counseling service for the victim.

*(The purpose of the meeting is not investigatory.)*

3. The professional counseling service will be offered through a list of professional health service providers with whom the diocese has made prior arrangement; or, the victim may select his/her own professional counselor, subject to approval by the diocese.
4. The diocese will assist with the cost of professional counseling initially; the continuance of the assistance will be based on progress reports provided by the professional counselor.
  - A. A Release-of-Information will need to be provided by the victim to the counselor for the purpose of the counselor offering the diocese a minimally adequate evaluation of treatment effectiveness and estimated duration.
  - B. The evaluation will be shared with the victim.
  - C. The progress report and evaluation process may be repeated at intervals determined by the diocese.



5. The Assistance Coordinator will offer pastoral care for the victim’s family as determined

by the family and the Assistance Coordinator, and may include the bishop and/or his representatives.

6. The Assistance Coordinator will offer pastoral care for the faith community of the accused cleric as determined by representatives of the faith community and the Assistance Coordinator, and may include the bishop or his representatives.
7. The Assistance Coordinator will document for the case file all actions undertaken on behalf of the victim. A copy of the Assistance Coordinator's documentation will be made available to the victim on request.

\*\*\*\*\*

Protocol Approved by the Most Reverend Curtis J. Guillory, S.V.D., D.D.  
Bishop of Beaumont  
6-25-03