

Canadian Reporting System for Sexual Abuse or Cover-up by a Catholic Bishop

Disclosing an experience of sexual abuse can be very unsettling and deeply painful; however, it can also be an important step toward healing and justice for victims-survivors, and is necessary for the Church in its commitment to responsibility, accountability and transparency.

Sexual abuse or other sexual misconduct by a Bishop, or actions or omissions by a Bishop which intended to interfere with or avoid civil investigations or canonical investigations regarding sexual abuse, can be reported to Church authorities using the *Canadian Reporting System for Sexual Abuse or Cover-up by a Catholic Bishop*. This reporting system uses a confidential and secure platform designed by [ClearView](#), an independent professional ethics firm based in Canada, to transmit your report to the proper Church authorities, who in turn will act as required by church law and civil law.



You can make your report in two ways:

- 1) **Online:** via ClearView's highly secure and strictly confidential platform at [BishopReportingSystem.ca](#)

OR

- 2) **By Phone:** via the Canada-wide 24-hour toll-free number operated by a bilingual ClearView agent at **1-866-892-3737**. All ClearView agents are trained to provide a verbatim account of your report.

The Reporting Process is summarized in the infographic on the next page.

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BishopReportingSystem.ca | 1-866-892-3737

THE REPORTING PROCESS

1



Reporter

It is never easy to make a report. When you are ready, Church authorities will be there to welcome and listen to you. You will not be required to provide your name; however, doing so will help the investigation.

2



Access Reporting System

You can make your report online at **BishopReportingSystem.ca** or call toll-free 24 hours a day and 7 days a week at **1-866-892-3737**.

3



Provide Report

Enter or relate what happened in your own words. Try to be specific about people involved or informed, locations and dates, and any other circumstance that may be pertinent.

4



Select Bishop Named in the Report

Select the Archbishop or Bishop you wish to report to Church authorities from an alphabetical list of names.

5



Additional Optional Questions and Answers

You will be posed some additional questions to help Church authorities respond more effectively to your report. These questions are optional, but you are encouraged to answer as many as you can.

6



Submit Report

To send your report to Church authorities, click the "Submit report" button. If you are reporting by phone, the agent will seek your consent at this time.

7



Immediate Next Steps

After submitting your report you will receive an auto-generated report ID and password, which will give you access to your report to view or update it. At the same time, your report will be sent to the designated Church authorities.

8



Communication

Using your report ID and password, you can receive messages from Church authorities and communicate with them through the system.

You may also wish to contact civil authorities and are required to do so if a minor is at risk as per the laws of each Canadian province and territory. See [Responding to Child Welfare Concern: Your Role in Knowing When and What to Report](#).

The Canadian Reporting System for Sexual Abuse or Cover-up by a Catholic Bishop was established by the Bishops of Canada in response to Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter *Vos estis lux mundi* (You are the light of the World). It represents another step in the Bishops' ongoing commitment to responsible ministry and the protection of minors and persons who are vulnerable.

Frequently Asked Questions (PDF)