



Policy of St. Anne Parish
Re: Protection of Children
From Abuse and Improper Conduct

The Pastor, after consultation with the Parish Pastoral Council, declares that the official policy of St. Anne Parish in Southborough, Massachusetts is that any abuse or other improper conduct directed at children, whether physical, sexual or emotional, will not be tolerated in any form. This is consistent with the Diocesan policy.

This policy is enacted for the protection and in the best interests of both our children, as well as the many adults who volunteer their time in church ministry and related programs, which educate and benefit our children.

Therefore, it is the policy of St. Anne Parish that:

1. Any and all incidents of abusive treatment of children shall be reported immediately to both the Pastor and the chairperson of the Parish Council. In accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 119, Section 51A, if there is "reasonable cause to believe" that abuse has occurred, the Pastor or the Chair of the Parish Council will immediately notify the Department of Social Services. In addition, the Diocese and the family of the child will be notified. Any person involved shall fully cooperate with subsequent related investigations.
2. In order to minimize the circumstances under which any such alleged incident could occur, no adult will be alone with a child in parish related activities. Rather, adults will take precautionary steps when working with children to insure that there are others present or nearby. In addition, parents will be proactive, with their time and presence, to insure that their children are always in situations where there is appropriate adult supervision.

By implementing such policy, it is the sincere hope of the Pastor and the Parish Council to protect our children and to insure that none of the adults who generously devote their time and talents are ever put into a situation where they may be falsely accused of inappropriate conduct. Acknowledging that most of those who minister to children do so out of their faith, the parish wants to continue to provide our children with a healthy, safe and supportive environment to learn and live the Catholic Faith