bistum st.gallen

sg.
kath.
ch

katholischer
konfessionsteil
des kantons
st.gallen

Protecting physical, mental and spiritual integrity

The understanding of protection in the Diocese of St. Gallen seeks to ensure people can flourish in safety and preserve their spiritual, mental and physical integrity. The necessary instruments and bodies for prevention, support and intervention have been put in place to make this possible. These are as follows:

Victim Support

Victim Support is the independent first point of contact. **It is not a church body.** Consultations are confidential, anonymous and free of charge. Making contact has no "consequences" such as filing charges or reporting to other authorities. Victim Support offices are bound by a duty of confidentiality.
Emergency number: 142, contact: Victim Support, email, tel. 071 227 11 00

Reporting Office

The Reporting Office is the **point of contact within the church**. It supports and accompanies people affected (in particular) and assists with filing criminal charges.
If contact is made, the Reporting Office is obliged to initiate a church investigation in the event of suspicion. Anyone who does not wish this to happen should contact Victim Support or pastoral care for people affected, rather than the hotline.
Contact: Reporting Office

Pastoral care for people affected

Pastors are available to provide pastoral support at all times. This is free of charge. Discussions with pastors are strictly confidential and do not entail any legal action. The pastors are not responsible for proceedings and prosecutions. Contact: Pastoral care for people affected

Ombudsman's Office

The Ombudsman's Office is a body within the Catholic church that acts in an advisory and mediating capacity. It is available to employees and volunteers (e.g. in the event of bullying or discrimination). Consultations are confidential, anonymous and free of charge.
Making contact does not result in any reports to other parties.
Contact: Ombudsman's Office

Investigation Office

The Investigation Office looks into situations. It takes action when a notification is made to the Reporting Office or when instructed to do so by the bishop. **A notification to the Investigation Office will result in legal steps being taken.**
Contact: Investigation Office

Organisations that support people affected

IG-M!kU (Interessengemeinschaft Missbrauchsbetroffene im kirchlichen Umfeld) (in German)
Groupe SAPEC (Soutien aux personnes abusées dans une relation d'autorité religieuse) (in French)
GAVA (Vittime di abusi in ambito religioso) (in Italian)