

## **Victim Support**

1. The Victim Assistance Coordinator shall be notified upon every report of sexual abuse of a minor.
2. The Diocese of Great Falls-Billings shall provide counseling, spiritual assistance and support to any victim of a violation of the Sexual Ethics Policy, as well as any of his or her immediate family and the faith community in which the violation has take place.
3. All such counseling, spiritual assistance and support shall be arranged for by the diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, appointed by the Bishop. The Coordinator shall be immediately notified of all reports of alleged sexual abuse at the same time that a matter is referred to the Investigation Team.
4. The Diocese is willing in all cases to make recommendations for victims and immediate family members seeking appropriate professional care or treatment and, if required, will facilitate referrals. Consistent with the recognition that any violation of the diocesan Sexual Ethics Policy is neither authorized nor condoned, financial assistance for professional care or treatment for victims and immediate family members will not necessarily be provided as a matter of course. The Bishop may offer financial support for professional care or treatment, as a matter of charity and compassion. Outreach for healing and reconciliation, including the provision of counseling, spiritual assistance, support groups and other social services, will be provided in all cases involving the sexual abuse of a minor.
5. It shall not be a condition of any financial settlement made by the Diocese arising from a violation of this Sexual Ethics Policy that the settlement be kept confidential. If, however, the person or persons with whom any such settlement is made requests that it be maintained as confidential, the Diocese shall honor and observe that request.

*Excerpt from Diocesan Sexual Ethics Policy*