

**COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING CHILD SAFETY AND PROTECTION**  
**Joint Protocol for the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Department of Children and Family Services**

**2/22/2006**

1. All relevant materials, such as training manuals and Internet website information of the Archdiocese of Chicago will highlight the DCFS hotline number, and the state mandated reporting law. DCFS will provide mandated reporter training to Archdiocese staff, if requested.
2. The Archdiocese of Chicago will immediately report to the DCFS Hotline all allegations of child abuse when it involves its clergy, employees, and volunteers according to the requirement of ANCRA.
3. The Department of Children and Family Services will take the lead in all child abuse investigations involving any clergyman, employee, or volunteer of the Archdiocese. The Department will provide to clergy all the required due process rights, such as notice and hearing. The Archdiocese of Chicago will suspend its own investigation until DCFS has completed its child abuse and neglect investigation. Nothing contained in this Joint Protocol shall be construed to prohibit the Archdiocese of Chicago Office of Professional Responsibility from receiving allegations of child abuse and the Office of Assistance Ministry from providing assistance to those who may have been abused; but in no event shall any report to the Office of Professional Responsibility relieve or absolve the mandated reporter of his/her obligation to immediately call the hotline.
4. The Department of Children and Family Services shall provide the Archdiocese of Chicago with interim notifications and reports, as required by ANCRA.
5. The Archdiocese of Chicago will cooperate with the Department of Children and Family Services to put into place a safety plan that ensures the protection of children during the investigation of an allegation against a clergyman, employee, and/ or volunteer. Similarly as it does with all child care institutions, the Department will design the terms and conditions of the safety plan and work with the Archdiocese so that children are safe and protected.
6. The Archdiocese of Chicago and the Department of Children and Family Services may agree that the safety plan might require the imposition of conditions that require the temporary removal of the clergyman until the investigation has been completed and a finding has been determined.
7. Within 48 hours of the conclusion of a child abuse and neglect investigation of a clergyman or employee of the Archdiocese of Chicago, the Department of Children and Family Services will provide the finding in writing to the Archdiocese of Chicago so that the Archdiocese can make a determination of the status of that clergyman or employee.
8. If the allegations are indicated, the clergyman and/or employees will be placed on the State Central Registry as required by law, which will likely result in restrictions in employment and access to children.
9. Once an indicated finding has been sustained through the administrative hearing process, the Archdiocese of Chicago will impose a safety plan for the duration that the indicated

perpetrator remains on the State Central Register and continues to be an active or inactive clergyman, including retired clergymen.

10. Going forward, the Archdiocese of Chicago agrees that it will report any allegations of past child abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse, even if the person who was allegedly abused is no longer a minor.
11. The Archdiocese of Chicago also agrees to share relevant information with the Department about abuse allegations already brought by adults alleging child abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse when they were minors, to help in assessing whether there might be continuing risk to children.
12. The Archdiocese of Chicago shall modify its internal personnel rules and procedures to comport with this joint protocol
13. At least once annually the parties shall review this Joint Protocol to ensure that it remains relevant to the safety of children. In the event the Archdiocese of Chicago or the Department of Children and Family Services determine to change its practice regarding anything described in this Joint Protocol, it shall advise the other party of its intent to change and the reasons for it prior to effecting the change. If the parties agree to make a change in any practice described in the understanding, the change should be incorporated into the understanding in a writing signed by the parties. Nothing in this Joint Protocol is intended to change, waive, modify or diminish in any way the rights and obligations under the law of any of the parties.

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Bryan Samuels, Director, DCFS

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Jimmy M. Lago, Chancellor, Archdiocese

**Joint Statement by Director of DCFS, Brian Samuels and Chancellor of the  
Archdiocese of Chicago, Jimmy M. Lago  
re: Joint Protocol: “Commitment to Improving Child Safety and Protection”**

After weeks of discussion, the Archdiocese and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services are announcing today a joint protocol, designed to improve reporting of child abuse and neglect, communications and the handling of allegations of child abuse involving Archdiocesan employees and clergymen.

The protocol clearly identifies mutual responsibilities and affirms commitments to mandated reporting as well as better sharing of information during the course of an investigation and after a finding of abuse.

The highlights of the protocol are:

1. The AOC will immediately report to DCFS all allegations of child abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse, as required by the Abused and Neglect Child Reporting Act. Reporting may include current cases involving children as well as adults who were abused as minors.
2. The AOC will share relevant information with DCFS about allegations already brought by adults alleging abuse as a minor, to help in assessing any continuing risk to children.
3. DCFS will share with the AOC interim notifications and reports regarding investigations and finding of abuse as required by ANCRA. The DCFS shall also notify the AOC within 48 hours after the conclusion of an investigation and a finding of abuse, so that the AOC can make a determination as to the future status of the person involved.
4. DCFS will take the lead in all investigations of abuse and neglect and may require, as part of its safety plan, the temporary withdrawal of the clergyman or employee during the investigation.
5. DCFS will cooperate with AOC in providing training regarding the requirements for mandated reporting of child abuse and neglect.
6. The AOC will review its policies and practice manuals to make sure that the reporting requirements of DCFS are clearly identified.

These highlights are part of a broad initiative aimed at increasing the protection of children by both organizations.