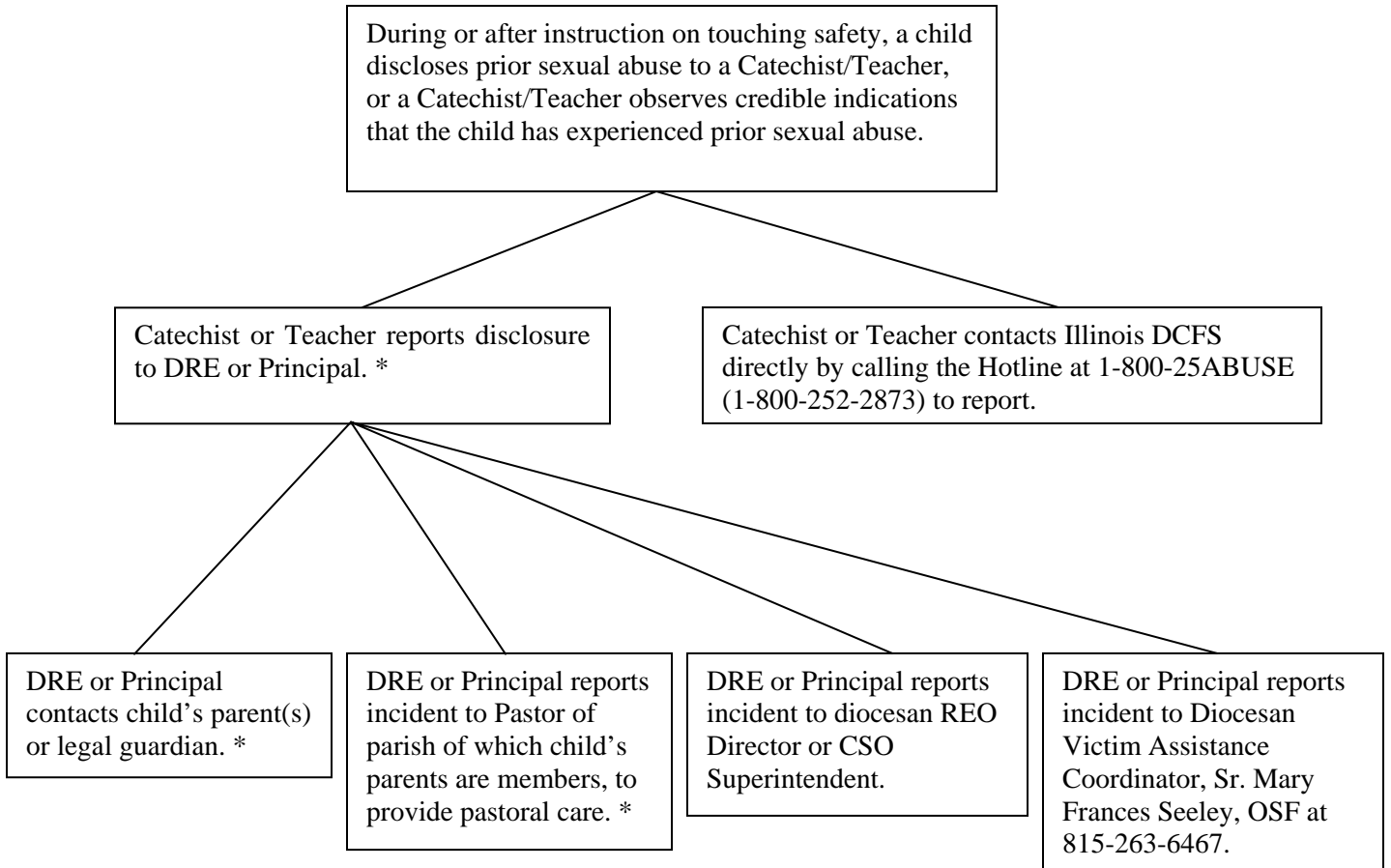


Diocese of Joliet

Child Touching Safety Instruction:

What You Should Do If a Child Discloses That He or She Has Been Sexually Abused



The mandate to report child abuse to DCFS applies whether the abuse is sexual, or non-sexual in nature. Catechists and Teachers are Mandated Reporters in the State of Illinois. Teachers and Catechists should sign Acknowledgement of Mandated Reporter Status. (See *Faith Formation in the Diocese of Joliet*, 2003, "Procedural Guidelines" II, B, 5 – p. 15-16, & Appendix 6.)

"An individual reporting suspected abuse and/or neglect is, as soon as possible, to work with the appropriate catechetical leader to document the incident. Such documentation is to be retained in secure and confidential files. All such documentation and the circumstances surrounding any such report to D.C.F.S. are confidential under Illinois Statute and shall not be disclosed, except as provided by Illinois law." (*Faith Formation in the Diocese of Joliet*, 2003)

"Any person who knowingly transmits a false report to the Department commits the offense of disorderly conduct under subsection (a)(7) of Section 26-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961. A first violation of this subsection is a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by a term of imprisonment for up to one year, or by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, or by both such term and fine. A second or subsequent violation is a Class 4 felony." (Statement from DCFS Website)

IMPORTANT: If a licensed counselor is present, parents must have been previously informed in order for the counselor legally to provide any assistance to the child.

*** IF THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A PERSON TO WHOM AN INCIDENT OF ABUSE IS NORMALLY TO BE REPORTED IS THE CHILD'S ALLEGED ABUSER, REPORTING TO THAT PERSON SHOULD NOT OCCUR.**