

Reporting Requirements

Failure to Disclose	Failure to Protect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The offence applies where an adult has information leading to a 'reasonable belief' that another adult has committed a sexual offence against a child under the age of 16 years in Victoria and fails to report this to the Police. A 'reasonable belief' is defined as "a reasonable person in the same circumstances as you would believe that an adult had sexually abused a child, for the same reasons you believed it." Failure to report to police can lead to individual criminal charges, the maximum penalty is three years imprisonment. The report must be made to police ASAP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The offence applies where there is a substantial risk that a child under the age of 16 under the care, supervision or authority of a relevant organisation/entity will become a victim of a sexual offence committed by an adult associated with that organisation/entity. A person in a position of authority in the organisation/entity will commit the offence if they know of the risk of abuse and have the power or responsibility to reduce or remove the risk, but fail to do so.

The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and human dignity of children, young people and adults.



Reporting Requirements

Reportable Conduct Scheme	Mandatory Reporting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires organisations to respond to allegations of child abuse and other child-related misconduct made against their workers and volunteers. The scheme encompasses five types of reportable conduct against, with or in the presence of, a child or young person: sexual offences, sexual misconduct, physical violence, behaviour that causes significant emotional or psychological harm and significant neglect The head of entity i.e Parish Priest must notify Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) of a reportable allegation within three business days and provide an update within 30 calendar days. Failure to do so is an offence and can result in legal action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certain professionals are legally mandated to report child abuse to statutory authorities if they have formed a belief on reasonable grounds that a child is in need of protection from physical injury or sexual abuse and the child's parents are unable or unwilling to protect the child. The failure of a mandatory reporter to make a report is considered a criminal offence. Effective from the 17th of February 2020, 'people in religious ministry' were added to the list of mandatory reporters. Within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, 'people in religious ministry' refers to those in ordained ministry (i.e. bishop, priest or deacon).

The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and human dignity of children, young people and adults.

