

Guidelines for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

Standards of Conduct for Ministry with Adults

Congregation of Missionaries of the Precious Blood, Atlantic Province
(Date Promulgated and Reviewed)

Preamble and Introduction

C.P.P.S. Mission

“The Missionaries of the Precious Blood (CPPS) dedicates itself to the service of the Church through the apostolic and missionary activity of the ministry of the Word.” (Normative Text of the Society of the Precious Blood C-3) To be faithful witnesses to the Gospel, members of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood are to reflect its values in their lives and ministry. The Missionaries of the Precious Blood believes in the sanctity of human life and that all children have the right to be protected from harm in all environments. It considers abuse and neglect of children as contrary to Christian morality and as an offense against God and against the dignity of the human person.

By the nature of his role, a CPPS missionary priest, brother, deacon or seminarian (Member) is always in a position of authority in relation to the laity. Even when interacting with an adult he must always be aware that he is never a peer with the lay faithful. Members have a general accountability to one another. If you see or hear of something that another Member is doing that is not appropriate, say something.

Safeguarding local Civil law and Canon law and the directives of the Vatican the following policies are meant to strengthen healthy boundaries in ministry.

Definition of Terms

A **Member** may be a definitively incorporated priest, brother or deacon of the *Congregation of Missionaries of the Precious Blood, Atlantic Province*, or a seminarian/candidate in formation.

A **Unit Director** is a Provincial Director, Vicariate Director or Mission Director elected and appointed to oversee the administration of a Unit of the congregation.

A **Minor** under church law is anyone under the age of 18. (C. 97.§1); in Canada civil law under age is 15 years old and in U.S. is 18 years old.

Vulnerable Adult is an adult who is uniquely vulnerable to abuse because of a physical or mental disability.

Mandatory Reporting refers to the legal obligation to report abuse. Members of the CPPS are mandated reporters legally required to make these reports. It will report to the

local Police and to each respective Archdiocese or Diocese in which the Member is ministering.

Types of Abuse: sexual, emotional, physical, authoritative, spiritual

Safeguarding Delegate: This person receives allegations and offers guidance to the victim and CPPS leadership. This person coordinates the prevention and training activities of the Unit.

Review Board: An objective third-party group that assists in determining the credibility of an allegation, guidance in responding to victim and abuser, guidance on development of safety plan for abuser.

Safety Plan: An agreement between a member removed from ministry and CPPS leadership outlining the boundaries of their life in community and in the public.

Sexual abuse is sexual contact between a missionary and a minor.

Sexual Misconduct is a general term that includes sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, and sexual abuse.

Sexual Harassment is unwanted sexualize conduct or language between co-workers in the church setting. It may include but is not limited to 1) unsolicited sexual advances and propositions, 2) the use of sexually degrading words to describe an individual or his/her body, 3) the telling of inappropriate or sexually-charged jokes, 4) retaliation against a co-worker who refuses sexual advances, 5) offers of preferential treatment such as promotions, positive performance evaluations, or favorably assigned duties or shifts in exchange for sexual favors.

Sexual Exploitation consists of sexual contact between a missionary and person receiving pastoral care from him. This includes not only physical sexual contact but also showing pornography, excessive hugging or kissing on the lips, innuendo or sexual talk, descriptions of sexual experiences, fantasies.

Types of Abuses

Child Abuse: Is defined as all forms of harm to a Child and includes any actions that result in any actual or potential harm to a Child. Child abuse as a general term is used to describe the situations where the child may experience harm, usually as a result of failure on the part of the parent or care giver to ensure a reasonable standard of care and protection. Child abuse takes place within the context of family or outside the family. E.g. in institutions, at work pace (child labor), in war zones and emergencies. It may include both actions and omissions on the parent or care. The following are different types of abuses:

a. Physical abuse: The actual or potential physical harm perpetrated by another person, adult or child through an interaction or lack of interaction which is reasonably within the control of the perpetrator. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or care giver

fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child. Example, Hitting, shaking, poisoning, drowning, burning, slapping, pinching, biting, kicking, beating, hard labor, carrying heavy loads, child sacrifice, corporal punishment and harmful cultural practices.

b. Sexual abuse: Forcing a child to take part in sexual activities that he or she does not fully understand and has little to no choice in consenting to. Rape, oral sex, penetration, or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching the child's private parts. Involving children in looking at, or producing, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, and using sexual language and gestures when communicating with children.

c. Emotional abuse: Persistent emotional maltreatment that impacts on a child's emotional development. Emotionally abusive acts include restriction of movement, degrading, humiliating, bullying (including cyber bullying), and threatening, scaring, discriminating, ridiculing, blackmail, rumor mongering, nicknaming, shunning, or other nonphysical forms of hostile or rejecting treatment.

d. Exploitation: Exploiting a child for the economic or sexual benefit of others, and to the detriment of the child's physical or mental health, moral or social emotional development. It further deprives them of their childhood and their ability to attend school. Street work, street begging, commercial agriculture, stone quarrying, child labor, odd jobs in the informal sector that interfere with the child's ability to attend school. Child marriage can also be considered a form of exploitation. Child prostitution is a form of exploitation and is described in more detail under child sexual exploitation.

e. Child sexual exploitation: A form of sexual abuse that involves children being engaged in any sexual activity in exchange for money, gifts, food, accommodation, affection, status, or anything else that for their family needs. It usually involves a child being manipulated, which may involve befriending children, gaining their trust, and subjecting them to drugs and alcohol. The abusive relationship between victim and perpetrator involves an imbalance of power where the victim's options are limited. It is a form of abuse that can be misunderstood by children and adults as consensual.

Child sexual exploitation manifests in different ways. It can involve an older perpetrator exercising financial, emotional or physical control over a young person. It can involve peers manipulating or forcing victims into sexual activity, sometimes within gangs and in gang affected neighborhoods. It may also involve opportunistic or organized networks of perpetrators who profit financially from trafficking young victims between different locations to engage in sexual activity with multiple men.

f. Neglect and negligent treatment: Allowing for context, resources and circumstances, neglect and negligent treatment refers to a persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/ or psychological needs, which is likely to result in serious impairment of a child's healthy physical, spiritual, moral and mental development.

Neglect and negligent treatment includes the failure to properly supervise and protect children from harm and provide for safe living/working conditions. It includes the denial of basic needs (education, health, food, shelter), denial of parenthood, denial of love and emotional support, communication and supervision. It may also involve maternal neglect during pregnancy as a result of drug or alcohol misuse and the neglect and ill-treatment of a disabled child.

g. Child grooming: Child grooming refers to actions deliberately undertaken with the aim of establishing an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or trafficking. Children can be groomed online or face-to face, by a stranger or by someone they know.

h. Spiritual abuse: occurs when a spiritual leader or someone in a position of spiritual power or authority (whether organization, institution, Church or family), misuses their power or authority, and the trust placed in them, with the intention of controlling, coercing, manipulating or dominating a child. Spiritual abuse is always about the misuse of power within a framework of spiritual belief or practice, in order to meet the needs of the abuser (or enhance his or her position), at the expense of the needs of the child. Spiritual abuse results in spiritual harm to a child and can be linked to other abuses such as physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

Standards of Conduct for Ministry with Minors and Vulnerable Adults

In pastoral activities involving minors and vulnerable adults, their protection must be a priority. Therefore, in the course of their activities, members must practice appropriate boundaries in ministry.

Examples of positive boundaries in ministry:

- a. Pats on the shoulder or back.
- b. Side hugs
- c. Handshakes.
- d. “High-fives” and hand slapping.
- e. Verbal praise.
- f. Touching hands, faces, shoulders and arms of minors.
- g. Arms around shoulders.
- h. Holding hands while walking with children under the age of six.
- i. Sitting beside minors.
- j. Kneeling or bending down for hugs with children under the age of six.
- k. Holding hands during prayer.
- l. Pats on the head when culturally appropriate. (For example, this gesture should typically be avoided in some Asian communities).

Examples of behavior strictly forbidden in ministry:

- a. Inappropriate or lengthy embraces.
- b. Kissing on the mouth.

- c. Holding minors over three years old on the lap.
- d. Touching buttocks, chests or genital areas.
- e. Showing affection in isolated areas such as bedrooms, closets, staff-only areas or other private rooms.
- f. Being in bed with a minor.
- g. Touching knees or legs of minors.
- h. Wrestling with minors.
- i. Tickling minors.
- j. Any type of massage given by minor to adult.
- k. Any type of massage given by adult to minor.
- l. Any form of unwanted affection.
- m. Compliments that relate to physique or body development

Prohibited Behaviors

- a. Using, possessing, or being under the influence of illegal drugs while in the presence of minors. Using, possessing, or being under the influence of alcohol while supervising minors.
- b. Providing or allowing minors to consume alcohol or illegal drugs.
- c. Swearing in the presence of minors.
- d. Speaking to minors in a way that is or could be construed by any observer as harsh, threatening, intimidating, shaming, derogatory, demeaning, or humiliating.
- e. Discussing sexual activities with minors unless it is a specific job requirement and the Member is trained to discuss these matters.
- f. Engaging in any sexually oriented conversations with minors unless the conversations are part of a legitimate lesson and discussion for teenagers regarding human sexuality issues. On such occasions, the lessons will convey to youth the Church's teachings on these topics. If youth have further questions not answered or addressed by their individual teachers they should be referred to their parents or guardians for clarification or counseling.
- g. Being nude in the presence of a minor or being in the presence of a nude minor.
- h. Possessing sexually oriented or morally inappropriate printed materials (magazines, cards, videos, films, clothing, etc.).
- i. Sleeping in the same beds, sleeping bags or tents with a minor(s).
- j. Engaging in sexual contact with minors. For the purposes of this policy, sexual contact is defined as vaginal intercourse, anal intercourse, oral intercourse or the touching of an erogenous zone of another (including but not limited to the thighs, genitals, buttocks, pubic region or chest) for the purpose of sexually arousing or gratifying either person.
- k. Inappropriate or excessive contact through email, chat rooms, social media, letters or gifts.

Informed consent of parents or guardians

Written consent of parents or guardians for participation of minors in pastoral activities is required. General written permission to communicate with children or to post photographs through social networking methods should be given by parents. Since utilizing social media is part of the standard permission form, parents should

also be made aware that they can opt out of allowing their children to be contacted through social media. If desired, parents also have the right to be copied in all communication coming to their children (e.g., by being added to any texting list or social media group).

- a. **Informing Parents:** Because of the policy above, ministry leaders must make reasonable efforts to inform parents more specifically of the typical ways their children will be participating in pastoral activities and how they will be contacted through social networking.
- b. **Posting Images:** Members may not post identifiable images of children on any social media network without written parental consent, except for images taken in the public arena, such as at sporting events or fine arts public performances.
- c. **Images and Personal Information:** Even with permission to utilize an identifiable image of a child, on public ministry website accounts, youth should not be identified by anything more than a first name. Youth also should not be tagged on public ministry website accounts.

The following information is required and must be documented, whether a child is registering for an ongoing program or for a single activity.

1. Name of child;
2. Name of parish and school or sponsoring organization;
3. Name of adult(s) in charge of activity;
4. Date of activity or regular time for program;
5. Location of activity or program;
6. Telephone number where youth can be reached in case of a family emergency;
7. Telephone number to reach parent/guardian in the event of an emergency;
8. Starting time or date, ending time or date of activity or program;
9. General description of program or activities which are involved;
10. Method of transportation (if any); and
11. Cost (if any).

The signed and completed Forms are to be maintained throughout the duration of the activity or program and should be kept by the parish and school for not less than two years following the conclusion of the activity or program.

Responding to Incidents and Allegations of Sexual Abuse

Allegations of sexual abuse may come from a variety of sources, including alleged victims or their family members, diocesan offices, the laity, a colleague in the workplace or from an alleged perpetrator. Because each case is distinct, the following is a general outline of the response system for allegations of abuse but is not a procedure that is to be followed in the same way for each unique case. The process is to be modified according to the nature of the allegation, the needs of the alleged victim and the circumstances of the accused Member. In every case, the

CPPS Unit commits itself to dealing pastorally with, and protecting the rights of, all those involved.

If an allegation is made against the Moderator General, recourse goes directly to the Holy See. If a Provincial abuses, the Moderator General intervenes.

A. Initial Response

1. The Unit Director (or his delegate) shall receive allegations of sexual abuse and coordinate assistance to anyone who brings an allegation of abuse by a Member or former Member of the CPPS Unit.

2. When an allegation of abuse is first received, the Unit Director shall attempt to gather sufficient information to complete a preliminary report. The information would include the following:

- a. Name of the alleged victim;
- b. Age of alleged victim;
- c. Address and phone number of alleged victim;
- d. Name of alleged perpetrator;
- e. Approximate dates of alleged abuse;
- f. Nature, type and location of alleged abuse;
- g. Any additional relevant details.

3. Upon receipt of an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor, the Unit Director will promptly follow CPPS Unit reporting procedures and report the allegation to civil authorities.

Reporting Procedures:

- a. Any Member shall report known or suspected current abuse of minors or vulnerable adults to civil authorities immediately.
- b. In addition to reporting to the civil authorities, Members shall report any suspected or known abuse of minors or vulnerable adults that may have been perpetrated by Members directly to the Unit Director.
- c. An anonymous, specific and verifiable letter of concern may be sent to the Unit Director. Anonymous concerns will be investigated to the extent that is feasible based on known information.
- d. All allegations of sexual abuse that may have been committed by a Member or other agent of the CPPS Unit shall be immediately reported to civil authorities in the jurisdiction in which the alleged incident occurred.
 - a. Allegations of sexual abuse will be reported to civil authorities regardless of whether the person making the accusation is a minor or an adult at the time the allegation is received.
 - b. Allegations of sexual abuse will be reported to civil authorities regardless of whether the accused Member is living or dead, or whether he is a current or former Member of the CPPS Unit.
 - c. Allegations of sexual abuse will be reported to civil authorities regardless of whether the alleged victim's identity is known.

- e. If abuse of a minor is confirmed through investigation, civil authorities shall be re-contacted and a follow-up report will be submitted, if requested. If further investigation indicates the allegation is not credible, civil authorities will be contacted and provided with the additional information.
- f. Files of allegations will be created at the time the allegation is received and will contain information about how the allegation was handled.
- g. The CPPS Unit will cooperate fully with investigations by civil authorities.

4. The Unit Director and the Unit members will cooperate fully with any investigation by civil authorities.

5. The Unit Director will offer to meet in person with the alleged victim. The Unit Director will maintain a compassionate and pastoral manner regardless of the demeanor of alleged victim, recognizing that the experience of abuse and difficulty of coming forward may bring out strong emotions during the disclosure process.

6. An Assistance Coordinator may be assigned to assist with the immediate and ongoing needs of individuals who have experienced abuse and their families.

7. If the Member is living, the Unit Director will notify him of the allegation and its substantial details. The Member will be temporarily removed from ministry and assigned to live in a supervised environment with no access to minors while the credibility of the allegation is evaluated.

8. The Unit Director will take steps to ensure that the accused Member receives the support and assistance he needs while the allegation is being investigated. This support may take the form of assigning a mentor for the accused.

9. The Unit Director will inform the accused Member of his right to seek canonical and civil counsel before any further conversation into the matter. The CPPS Unit recognizes that the Member may need assistance to engage such counsel. The Unit Director and his Council will make all decisions regarding such assistance.

10. The Unit Director will prepare a list of all assignments where the Member has served and will write to the bishops of all of these dioceses informing them of the allegation.

11. The Unit Director will also notify, when applicable, the employer of the place where the alleged abuse took place, and if applicable the current place of employment of the Member should it be a non-parochial assignment.

12. The Unit Director, in consultation with the Unit Council, shall prepare appropriate statements for communicating the incident, when appropriate, and decide when and in what manner these statements will be made to:

- a. The Members of the Congregation
- b. The parish or ministry site(s) where the Member ministered
- c. The public at large

13. The Unit Director will contact the Chair of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood Review Board and inform the Chair of the allegation.

B. Internal Investigation

1. The Unit Director will designate an investigator to gather information regarding the allegations
 - a. In the cases of verified or undisputed allegations, an investigation will be conducted to identify any other potential victims and to obtain information to inform the on-going supervision plans for the Member who has abused.
 - b. In the case of all other allegations, 45 days will be used for determination of credibility of the allegation. During that period the Member will live in a supervised environment. No formal safety plan will be instituted at this time, but there will be restrictions, including suspension from any public ministry during the 45-day period.
2. In order to fulfill his responsibilities, the Unit Director will consult with the Review Board at each juncture of the process and the Review Board will convene after receipt of the final report from the Investigator.
3. If allegations of sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult against a Member are deemed credible, the CPPS Unit will provide for the pastoral care of the victim and the victim's family.
4. If allegations of sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult against a Member are deemed credible, the CPPS Unit will also provide for the pastoral care and treatment of the Member.
5. Should an allegation be unsubstantiated, the CPPS Unit will reinstate the accused Member to ministry and will work towards the restitution of his good name, as well as providing needed pastoral care or treatment and fraternal support.
6. CPPS Unit investigations will be documented. Documentation of CPPS Unit investigations will be stored in the office of the Unit Director. A summary of the investigation findings will be stored in the personnel file of the Member who is the subject of the investigation.
7. Documentation of investigations is the property of the CPPS Unit and shall remain with the office of the Unit Director following election of a new Unit Director.
8. The Unit Director will usually assign/engage an investigator to review the allegations, question the parties involved, and act in the service of the CPPS Unit. The investigator, who shall obtain statements from the parties and any witnesses, will keep the Unit Director informed regarding the status of the investigation.
9. The Unit Director will maintain contact with the accused Member throughout the entire process.

10. When he has received the completed investigation report, the Unit Director will present the results of the investigation to the Member for response.

C. Decision-Making

1. Upon the conclusion of the investigation, the Unit Director will exercise his judgment in delivering an appropriate response. If the accused Member has admitted to the substance of the allegation, or in those cases where the allegation continues to be deemed credible or has been substantiated, the Unit Director response may include, but is not limited to, any of the following:

- psychological and medical assessment and intervention; including an assessment of risk and recommendation of risk-reduction strategies;
- restrictions on community life and personal activities; and
- limitations imposed on ministerial activities, including total removal from public ministry.

2. In cases where the allegation has been deemed credible or has been substantiated, the Unit Director will contact the appropriate diocesan offices to communicate the nature of the allegation and to inform the diocese of the procedure followed and the response of the Unit Director to the allegation.

3. In cases where an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor is substantiated, the Member may not return to public ministry.

4. If an allegation is deemed to be without merit, the Unit Director will coordinate communication with all appropriate parties so that reconciliation can take place where possible and repair of damage to reputations can be undertaken.

5. In all instances, the final disposition of the matter rests with the Unit Director, always recognizing

- The Member's right to appeal to the Moderator General.
- It is the Unit Director's responsibility to communicate his decision to the person who made the complaint, to the Member involved, and to other parties, including the Moderator General, as necessary and appropriate.

6. The Member has a right to seek recourse concerning his case with the Holy See. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith is the official dicastery appointed to examine grave delicts against morals including a delict against the sixth commandment of the Decalogue committed by a cleric with a minor below the age of eighteen years. (See note below.)

7. If at any time during the course of implementing these procedures, civil or criminal proceedings are initiated against the accused Member, the Missionaries' procedures may be suspended immediately, to be resumed, if deemed necessary, only after the completion of the civil or criminal proceedings. In such a case, the Unit Director's delegate shall recommend to the Unit Director a possible course of action with respect to the accused Member, in keeping with the intention of these procedures and in the interests of justice

Note: In *Sacramentorum Sanctitatis Tutela*, promulgated April 30, 2001, Pope St. John Paul II promulgated Norms concerning the more grave delicts reserved to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. “The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith examines delicts against the faith and more grave delicts whether against morals or committed in the celebration of the sacraments, which have been referred to it and, whenever necessary, proceeds to declare or impose canonical sanctions according to the norm of both common and proper law,” thereby further confirming and determining the judicial competence of the same Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith as an Apostolic Tribunal. (Quote from: Apostolic Constitution *Pastor bonus*, On the Roman Curia, June 28, 1988, art. 52, in AAS 89.)

More specifically, in Part One, under Substantive Norms, Article 4.1 we see that “Reservation to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith is also extended to a delict against the sixth commandment of the Decalogue committed by a cleric with a minor below the age of eighteen years.” Article 4.2 “One who has perpetrated the delict mentioned in .1 is to be punished according to the gravity of the offence, not excluding dismissal or deposition.”

Supervision and Care of Members Who Have Abused Minors or Vulnerable Adults

These procedures describe the elements of a pastoral care framework which will be developed for each Member of the CPPS Unit about whom a credible accusation of sexual abuse has been made. Most of these procedures address cases where the accusation is that of abuse of a minor or vulnerable person.

The purpose of this framework is to:

- assure the Church and the public, especially children and minors, of all reasonable measures to prevent any future occurrence.
- provide a structure within which the Member can continue his life in the Missionaries of the Precious Blood as a definitively incorporated Member of a Society of Apostolic Life.
- provide appropriate care for the Member and the opportunity for such personal conversion and rehabilitation as may be needed.
- guide superiors, the Member, and others in determining work, place of residence, and other activities.
- encourage Member communities in welcoming and supporting the Member in his desire to continue his life as a Member within this framework; and
- assure all of both proper care and appropriate limits with respect to one who has abused in the past.

It is intended that all of the elements below be adapted in a Safety Plan for each Member, depending on such factors as severity of the accusation(s), notoriety, age and health of the Member, and the recommendations of the CPPS Unit's Review Board. The framework, however, sets out the elements to be developed in writing for each Member about whom a credible accusation of sexual abuse has been made. These are reviewed by the Review Board, and shared with the Member, his superiors, and, as appropriate, Members of his local Member community. The Safety Plan shall be signed by the Member and the Unit Director.

A. Evaluation and Therapy

1. A Member about whom a credible accusation has been made may be asked to submit to a professional evaluation as to his psychological condition and proclivity to harmful behavior in the future.
2. The Member is free to decline to participate in an evaluation. If he agrees to an evaluation, the Unit Director or his delegate will arrange for the evaluation.
3. Subsequent to that evaluation, the Member may be asked to participate in such inpatient and/or outpatient treatment as recommended by the evaluating professionals, as well as such other physical, psychological, and spiritual rehabilitation as may be recommended by such professionals or the Review Board, as well as the terms of his Safety Plan.
4. The Member may be required to report to the Unit Director or his delegate in person or in writing periodically (e.g., monthly, quarterly or annually, as appropriate to the situation), describing his progress in terms of work, therapy, spiritual direction, community life, and such other matters as may be appropriate.
5. Information resulting from such evaluation, treatment and correspondence is the property of the Member. It will always be shared with the Member.

B. Public Ministry as a Member

1. An ordained Member found to have abused a minor or vulnerable person would not be allowed to function publicly as a priest or deacon, including public celebration of the sacraments, use of the title "Father" or "Reverend" in public communications, and the wearing of clerical attire.
2. In the case of a Brother, he would not be allowed to function publicly in external ministry associated with a religious congregation (e.g., school teaching, coaching, parish staff work) or use of the title "Brother" in public.
3. No clerical or distinctive religious attire would be allowed for a Priest or Brother who has abused a minor or a vulnerable person.
4. For a Member credibly charged with sexual abuse of an adult, the Unit Director will consider the nature and circumstances of the allegation and the advice of the Review Board in determining removal from, suspension from, or restrictions on public ministry.

C. Appropriate Work

1. If physically and mentally able, the Member who has been removed from public ministry should engage in appropriate work in support of the ministries of the CPPS Unit or in other service to people in need. Such employment might include the following:
 - internal work in a community of the CPPS Unit, such as a place of retirement;
 - administrative work for the CPPS Unit;
 - remunerative non-ministerial work to support the ministries of the CPPS Unit;

- service to people in need;
- performing landscaping work on the grounds of a CPPS community.

2. Where appropriate, Members restricted or removed from public ministry may need vocational assessment and/or occupational counseling to assist in determining meaningful and useful work. The Unit Director should consult with the Member involved to determine his interests and capacities and to promote his initiative in developing work opportunities, where appropriate.

3. In all cases, the service of prayer for the Missionaries of the Precious Blood and the Church would be a valuable contribution to the Congregation.

D. Place of Residence

1. Any restricted Member would be allowed to live only in a Member community or other appropriate supervised place of residence, as determined by the Unit Director.

2. No separate apartment, private home, or other domicile would be allowed as a permanent residence for the Member.

E. Community Support and Community Roles

1. The local community can and should play an important part in helping a Member who has been restricted and who wishes to continue his life as a Member.

2. Member communities should welcome the restricted Member as a brother.

3. It may also be appropriate for a mentor to be appointed for the Member who would assist and support him in his efforts to maintain his program of care and treatment.

4. A restricted priest Member, within the community, as allowed by Canon Law, would be permitted to preside at the Eucharist only with Members present or in private, lead community prayer, hear confessions of Members only, and perform community jobs and other responsibilities.

5. A restricted Member would not be allowed to serve as Local Director.

6. Upon the recommendation of the Unit Director, the Local Director shall, as appropriate, inform all or part of the community in which such a Member shall live of the fact that a Member is so restricted and the appropriate specific terms of his Safety Plan, so that the community can assist him in achieving his goals.

7. Communities may need the advice and consultation of appropriate professionals to assist the community in readying itself to receive the restricted Member and to provide him the necessary care and support.

F. Contact with Others

1. Under no circumstances would a Member credibly accused of abuse of a minor be allowed in contact with minors without the ongoing supervision of other adults present at the time.

2. Similar prohibitions may be applied to a Member credibly accused of abuse of an adult.

G. Travel, Vacation, Retreat

1. For a Member credibly accused of abuse of a minor, vacations alone or with minors, even supervised, would not be permitted. Vacations should be restricted to Member communities or travel with other Members.

2. Retreats in locations alone would not be permitted, and retreats would be restricted to Member retreats or retreats with other priests and religious

3. Other travel may be restricted to that related to assigned work or family visits; if appropriate, a Member companion for travel also may be required.

4. Additional specific permissions for travel may be required from the Unit Director.

H. Driving

1. Restrictions may be placed on driving alone or having use of a personal vehicle.

2. Some restricted Members may be required to request specific permissions for use of house cars from the Local Director, to keep a driving log or to drive only with other Members.

I. Publications and Publicity

1. Restrictions on publications, letters to the editor, web-pages, radio and television appearances, email, and the use of social media may be appropriate.

2. Sensitivity for victims would dictate caution with regard to photographs of a Members about whom a credible accusation of sexual abuse has been made being displayed in Member publications and institutions, especially those in service to minors.

3. In some cases a Member's use of mail, phone, and internet may need to be regulated.

J. Information for Members and Others

1. The Unit Director, in consultation with the Review Board, will determine whether and/or how to inform the CPPS Unit Membership—in general terms—of those Members who have been restricted.

2. The Unit Director, in consultation with the Review Board, will determine whether and/or how to inform others who may have a need to know—in general terms—of those Members who have been restricted.

K. Written Protocol for Those who Supervise Members on Safety Plans

1. The Supervisor of a Religious Priest or Brother on a Safety Plan is appointed by the Unit Director.

2. A Monitor may also be appointed by the Unit Director in those cases where it is deemed appropriate or necessary.
3. The Supervisor may be a Member of the Congregation or a third party contracted for purposes of supervision.
4. The Supervisor will be qualified by training or experience for the role of supervision.
5. The Supervisor is an integral part of a positive, informed support system for the Member on a Safety Plan to ensure a safe environment for minors, vulnerable adults, the Congregation, and the Member being supervised.

The Supervisor will be provided with:

- Accurate knowledge of the Member's allegations and problem behaviors.
- Accurate knowledge of the Member's treatment programs and aftercare requirements.
- Accurate knowledge of the rules, restrictions and expectations in the Safety Plan. This should also include knowledge of the requirement of the Charter and Norms of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- Awareness of the Member's potential arousal patterns.
- Familiarity with the Member's schedule and whereabouts.
- Knowledge of and the consequences for violations of the Safety Plan.
- The ability to hold the Member accountable for violations of the Safety Plan, including imposing consequences.
- The ability to intervene in any onset of a risky or problem behavior.

The Supervisor will maintain a file on each person who is being supervised. This file will contain documentation for the following areas:

- Meet regularly with the Member for a formal review of compliance with the Safety Plan. Documentation of meetings as specified in the safety/wellness plan and any notes taken during the meeting will be kept in the file.
- Maintain all documentation of compliance and non-compliance.
- Maintain documentation of imposing consequences for non-compliance.
- Maintain all logs and records required by the Safety Plan
- Report all cases of non-compliance to the Unit Director or his delegate.
- Provide regular updates regarding the Member's compliance with the Safety Plan.

Resources:

Vos Estis Lux Mundi, Motu Proprio Apostolic Letter by Pope Francis, May 7, 2019

March 25, 2023 – An updated version of “Vos Estis Lux Mundi” (You are the light of the world), went into effect April 1, 2023, expanded the categories of victims covered by the regulations to include vulnerable adults.

Meeting for The Protection of Minors in the Church, Eucharistic Address of Pope Francis, February 21-24, 2019.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, CCC 2336

Code of Canon Law, #1387, #1395

Convention on the Rights of the Child, which the Holy See ratified in 1990, and the Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child regarding the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, which the Holy See ratified as a party to this international document in 2001.

[Norms on delicts reserved to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith \(11 October 2021\)](#)
[\[English, French, German, Italian, Latin, Polish, Portuguese\]](#)

Rescriptum ex Audientia SS.mi: Rescriptum of the Holy Father Francis to approve the Norms on delicts reserved to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (11 October 2021)
[\[Latin\]](#)

[Video Message of the Holy Father for the meeting “Our common mission of safeguarding God’s children”, organised by the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors and the Bishops’ Conferences of Central and Eastern Europe \(18 September 2021\)](#)
[\[English, Italian, Polish, Spanish\]](#)

Number 160 of the July 16, 2020, Vademecum from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the faith notes that there can be no penal proceedings against an accused cleric who is deceased. The following two numbers (161-162) take up the topic regarding a cleric who dies after the allegation is being considered or a process is underway. But that's different from your question regarding a cleric who is accused and has been dead a long time. In such a case, CDF has no need or desire to be informed at all. The matter is entirely in the hands of a competent authority (i.e., via the competent Ordinary) with no involvement by CDF. “On certain points of procedure in treating cases of sexual abuse of minors committee by Clerics.”

