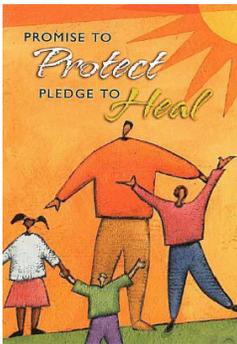




WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE



Chaminade College Preparatory is committed to protect its students from all forms of abuse, which is a sacred trust that flows from our Catholic, Marianist beliefs in the God-given dignity of every human being.

Abuse and neglect of children is contrary to the teaching of the Church and civil society. Sadly, however, abuse of children is a reality

in our society. Our founder, Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, responded to the crisis of his times and worked to protect the most vulnerable in society, especially the poor and youth. In this same spirit, Chaminade is committed to its students in this time and place.

The School's policies are aimed at protecting children from all forms of abuse and neglect, and particularly sexual abuse. The development of the policies included research into best practices, as well as the US Bishops' Charter for the protection of Children and Young people. The Charter contains practical and pastoral steps that address allegation of sexual abuse, prevent future abuse, and help victims through the healing process.

While we must never relax our efforts to keep our children and young people safe from all harm, it is appropriate to reflect upon all good work that has been accomplished at Chaminade.

All employees are subject to a fingerprint clearance upon hire and must go through a special training session. This training covers the topics of appropriate boundaries with students, as well as recognizing and properly reporting possible victims of abuse.

This brochure provides resources to help prevent child sexual abuse and information on what to do if you suspect or witness abuse or misconduct. Please read and keep it for reference.

I remain grateful to all those who have labored so diligently to help ensure the safety of our children and young people. Let's continue this important work together.

Robert S. Webb, President

Sexual Abuse of Minors—A Pervasive Social Problem

Child abuse is a frightening social reality. Numerous studies, while not in full agreement, estimate that some 40 percent of girls and 30 percent of boys suffer some form of molestation by an adult during their childhood and adolescence, with the majority of child sexual abuse occurring within the setting of an extended family. We as the Chaminade family are called to work together to stop all forms of sexual abuse, wherever they might occur.

Church Teaching on the Sexual Abuse of Minors

Church teaching condemns the sexual abuse of children and youth as seriously sinful. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "Connected to incest is any sexual abuse perpetrated by adults on children or adolescents entrusted to their care. The offense is compounded by the scandalous harm done to the physical and moral integrity of the young, who will remain scarred by it all their lives, and the violation of responsibility for their upbringing." (2389)

Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People was adopted by the Bishops of the United States in June 2002. This important document contains the Essential Norms which are the Church's response to child sexual abuse and the concrete plan to work actively in the prevention of sexual abuse. Key components of the implementation of the Charter include:

1) Reporting Child Sexual Abuse

Report misconduct by any Chaminade staff member or volunteer to either the middle school or high school principal or the Human Resources Office.

2) Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Education for Adults

Shield the Vulnerable is a training program for adults developed by experts in the field. Training covers the topics of appropriate boundaries with students, as well as recognizing and properly reporting possible victims of abuse. The program is mandated for all employees and all adult volunteers working with or around students on a regular basis.

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3) Children and Youth Sexual Abuse Prevention Programs

Child sexual abuse prevention includes empowering children by teaching them body safety rules and steps they can take to ensure their own safety. Chaminade currently offers the following age-appropriate prevention programs for our students:

- Middle school students learn about these important topics through our religion curriculum, focusing on healthy relationships and recognizing and responding to signs of sexual abuse.
- A health course for all 9th grade students that includes specific components on recognizing and responding to signs of sexual abuse.

4) Background Checks and Screening

All school staff and volunteers who work regularly in a supervisory role with children or youth must be fingerprinted for a criminal background check. For information call: Chaminade Human Resources (818) 366-9284

5) Chaminade Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Policies

Chaminade has implemented rigorous policies and procedures to provide a safe environment for all students. These include:

- Guidelines for Adults Working or Volunteering with Minors
- Boundary Guidelines for Junior High and High School Youth Working or Volunteering with Children or Youth
- Megan's Law Compliance Procedures

6) Reporting Child Abuse

All Chaminade employees, including priests, brothers, teachers, counselors, administrators, office staff, grounds staff, and walk-on coaches are designated as mandated reporters under California law. When one of these persons receives information leading to a "reasonable suspicion" that a child is being abused or neglected, he or she must make a report to the appropriate child protection or law enforcement agency.

If you are being abused, have been abused, or know someone who is being abused, the following is a list of resources to contact or you can call your campus principal, counselor or Chaminade's Human Resources Office.

Los Angeles County:

L.A. County Child Abuse Hotline: (800) 540-4000

Investigative Control Unit
for All Child Abuse Reports: (213) 486-0530

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department:
Special Victims Bureau (24 hours) (562) 946-8531
To speak to a detective (562) 946-7960

District Attorney's Office:
Sexual Crimes Division (213) 257-2050
Family Violence Division (213) 257-2185

For callers residing outside the State of California who wish to contact Child Protective Services in Los Angeles:
(213) 639-4500

Santa Barbara County:

Child Abuse Hotline: (800) 367-0166

District Attorney
Victim-Witness Assistance: (805) 568-2400

Ventura County:

Child Abuse Hotline: (805) 654-3200
District Attorney Victim's Services: (805) 654-3622