



# Canadian Reporting System for Sexual Abuse or Cover-up by a Catholic Bishop

[BishopReportingSystem.ca](http://BishopReportingSystem.ca) | 1-866-892-3737

## What happens to my report once Church authorities receive it?



1

### Acknowledgment through ClearView system

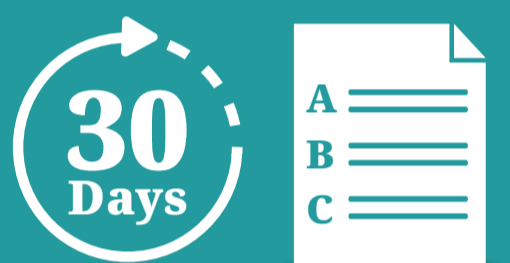
A Bishop Reviewer and/or the Assistant Reviewer will acknowledge receipt of your report through the ClearView system.



2

### Initial assessment forwarded to Holy See

The Bishop Reviewer will assess your report and, unless it is manifestly unfounded, he will forward his initial assessment to the proper authority of the Holy See (Vatican) and request the authorization to begin an investigation.



3

### Appropriate instructions provided within 30 days

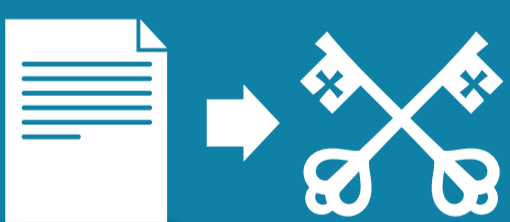
Within 30 days, the Holy See will provide the appropriate instructions on how to proceed. If an investigation is called, the Holy see will authorize a Bishop to oversee it.



4

### Authorized investigation within 90 days

The investigation is not to exceed 90 days of receiving the instructions from the Holy See (*Vos estis lux mundi* Art. 14). During the investigation, the Holy See may require the adoption of provisions or appropriate precautionary measures with regard to the Bishop being investigated (*Vos estis lux mundi* Art. 15), such as requiring him to be placed on administrative leave. You will be kept apprised of each of these steps.



5

### Investigation findings transmitted to the Holy See

The findings of the investigation are then transmitted to the Holy See (*Vos estis lux mundi* Art. 17), which will then order the appropriate process to be undertaken in accordance with Church law, such as a trial, leading to a final judgment.



6

### If guilty, disciplinary measures according to the nature of the offence

If the accused Bishop is found guilty, the Holy See will impose disciplinary measures upon him according to the nature of the offence. Such measures may vary, depending on the crime, and can include restricting the Bishop from ministry or even dismissing him from the clerical state.

The above is a summary and is not fully representative of the rigorous and detailed manner in which Church authorities are required to handle such reports. For more information, consult the Apostolic Letter *Vos estis lux mundi* as well as the *Vademecum* on certain points of procedure in treating cases of sexual abuse of minors committed by clergy. To learn more about how to submit a report, consult *The Reporting Process* available in PDF format at [BishopReportingSystem.ca](http://BishopReportingSystem.ca).