

The Diocesan Child Protection Policy is reviewed and, when necessary revised in order to maintain the highest standards in the protection of children. Please note the following changes in the current Policy publication:

1. Article 2:

Definition of Child Abuse to include: acquisition, possession and distribution of child pornography as called for by the Charter.

Amend to read:

F. "The acquisition, possession or distribution of pornographic images of a minor for the purpose of sexual gratification. Pornographic images of a minor are defined as any visual representation of a child, under the age of 18 years, engaged in sexual or lewd/erotic behavior designed to arouse the viewer's sexual interest. Visual representation of said acts include, but is not limited to, photographs, videos or digitally or computer generated images of minors."

2. Article 6:

Diocese to include child pornography as a prohibited behavior in the Code of Pastoral Conduct.

Code of Pastoral Conduct - Amend to read:

4.3: "The acquisition, possession or distribution, by any means whatsoever (electronic or otherwise), of any pornographic image of a minor (see Section 1.F) is a grave matter and as such is prohibited for all Clergy, religious, staff and volunteers."

3. Article 7:

Revise Policy Section XI to reflect more accurately Article 7 of Charter with specific reference to ***open and transparent communication***.

Amend to read:

***"The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, Article 7 states:
'Diocese and eparchies are to be open and transparent in communicating with the public about sexual abuse of minors by clergy within the confines of respect for the privacy and reputation of the individuals involved.'***