

Appendix I

VATICAN REPORTING

REQUIREMENTS

APOSTOLIC LETTER

Vos Estis Lux Mundi (VELM)

There is an obligation to report under Church law if an allegation against a cleric or consecrated person involves:

- a) forcing someone, by violence or threat or through abuse of authority, to perform or submit to sexual acts; performing sexual acts with a minor or a vulnerable person; the production, exhibition, possession or distribution, including by electronic means, of child pornography, as well as by the recruitment of or inducement of a minor or a vulnerable person to participate in pornographic exhibitions; and

- b) conduct consisting of actions or omissions intended to interfere with or avoid civil investigations or canonical investigations, whether administrative or penal, against a cleric or a religious regarding the delicts referred to in the above paragraph (a).

Whenever a member of the MGL has notice of, or well-founded motives to believe that an incident of a sexual nature amounting to abuse has been committed by a cleric or consecrated person, that member is obliged to report promptly the fact to the local Ordinary where the events are said to have occurred or to another Ordinary (*VELM, article 3*). The Local Ordinary will advise the Moderator how the complaint is to be processed subject to any advice and investigation by police.

If the complaint is of a criminal nature and the local bishop will be informed of the complaint as stipulated in (*VELM, article 1*)

An allegation of criminal behaviour against a child will be reported to Police for investigation. The Police will advise in relation to next steps. It will also be reported to the local Bishop insofar it falls within reportable content of article (*VELM, article 1*).

