Our Commitment

Daylesford Abbey recognizes that sexual misconduct causes profound harm to survivors, their families, the Abbey and the wider community. We acknowledge the lasting effects of such misconduct and are firmly committed to the care of those who have been harmed and to the prevention of abuse in every form. We respond promptly and responsible to all allegations of sexual misconduct. We comply fully with civil and canon law, report allegations as required, and offer compassionate assistance to those affected, including appropriate counseling and support.

The safety and well-being of children is our highest priority.

Where to Turn for Help

If you or someone you know believes that a member of Daylesford Abbey (priest or lay member) has violated the standards outlined in this brochure, please report your concerns immediately.

All reports are handled with sensitivity, respect, and appropriate confidentiality.

Abbot

Abbot Domenic Rossi, O. Praem
Phone: 610-647-2531
drossi@daylesford.org

Survivor Assistance Coordinator

Sharon L. Boyd
Phone: 484-716-7533
slboyd198@gmail .com

Daylesford Abbey
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DAYLESFORD ABBEY

Committed to safety, dignity and healing and the protection of minors

Sexual Misconduct in a Ministerial Relationship

A **ministerial relationship** exists when a person receives pastoral care or spiritual guidance from a Norbertine or other Abbey minister.

Sexual misconduct is a broad term that includes sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, and sexual abuse.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment refers to unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature in the Abbey or workplace setting. It may include:

- Unwanted advances or propositions
- Inappropriate comments, jokes, or gestures
- Displaying sexually suggestive materials
- Retaliation for refusing advances
- Offering benefits or opportunities in exchange for personal favors

Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation involves inappropriate behavior or contact between a confrere and a person receiving pastoral care. Because of the trust and authority involved, such conduct is a serious violation of boundaries.

It is important to understand that responsibility for maintaining proper boundaries rests entirely with the Norbertine or Abbey minister.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is any sexual behavior or contact involving a minor or a vulnerable adult. Such conduct is gravely wrong and will not be tolerated.

Sexual exploitation or abuse may include inappropriate physical contact, boundary violations, suggestive communication, or other actions that compromise the dignity and safety of another person.

Our Response & Prevention

Daylesford Abbey treats every allegation with seriousness, care, and compassion.

- A **Survivor Assistance Coordinator** is available to listen and assist with support and counseling referrals.
- Allegations are promptly evaluated and investigated when appropriate.
- An external Review Board, composed of qualified professionals, advises the Abbot.
- All suspected abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult is immediately reported to civil authorities, as required by law.

Any Norbertine* who has engaged in misconduct will be removed from ministry. Abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult results in permanent removal from ministerial responsibilities and strict safety measures.

*Includes Associate, Employee, Volunteer

To ensure a safe environment, the Abbey maintains careful screening, ongoing formation, and clear safeguarding policies.