

## **Explanation Sheet – For those who make allegations**

We have committed ourselves to treat all persons with safety and respect, and will take seriously any reports of inappropriate behavior on the part of our members. On behalf of all our members, we are truly sorry for your suffering at this time, and glad you have come forward, so we can help heal this situation. As we begin this process, we would like to suggest – and are willing to pay for – any counseling or therapy that you feel would be helpful during this period.

As this may be a confusing time for you, we wanted you to know the other things we will do as a result of your report. In some of the following actions we are bound by civil law. Other things we do are as a result of our own Province policy. In any of these actions, we will respect your confidentiality as much as possible. If you have a question about any of these actions, please ask us!

- The community member will be notified immediately that a report has been made alleging maltreatment. While he will be told the nature of the allegation, your privacy will be respected.
- Civil authorities will be notified of the report within 48 hours, unless you, as an adult, specifically request that no notification be made. To make these reports, we will need a lot of specific information from you regarding the incident.
- If civil authorities decide to conduct an investigation of their own, the Province will comply fully with their investigation. They will also need information from you regarding the incident.
- The members of the Province leadership team, the Province Response / Safety Team, and the Director of the ministry in which the accused Province Member works, will be notified immediately that a report has been made, and the community member will be removed from the ministry, and moved to a location where others will be safe, until a full investigation can be made.
- The Province will choose an Investigator and begin an investigation into the specifics of this report.
- An independent, confidential Review Board, who will not know any identifying information about you, will always review all the actions taken on your behalf, and give advice to Province leadership about what to do.
- You will be informed by the Provincial about the full results of any investigations into the incident, and the resulting permanent decisions which are made regarding the community member. In cases where an allegation is substantiated, the accused Brother will not return to public ministry.